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THE HIDDEN AND HAPPY LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN,

AMIDST A VARIETY OF TRIALS AND AFFLICTIONS INCIDENT TO THE PRESENT STATE,

EXEMPLIFIED,

IN AN

EXTRACT from the DIARY

OF

Mr. JOHN GLOVER,

Late of NORWICH,

K

Publiſhed by *JOHN CARTER.*

" *The Secret of the Lord is with them that fear him, and he will ſhew*
" *them his Covenant.* Pſ. xxv. 14.
—*Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Chriſt in God.* Col. iii. 3.

" O! how he longs
" To have his paſſport ſign'd and be diſmiſs'd—
" 'Tis done; and now he's happy: the glad Soul
" Has not a wiſh uncrown'd. Ev'n the lag Fleſh
" Reſts too in hope of meeting once again
" Its better half, never to ſunder more."

The Grave, by BLAIR.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE PREFACE.

CHRISTIAN READER,

THE ſubject matter of what is here offered to thy peruſal is CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE; —a word, I know, deſpiſed by many, perhaps for one of theſe two reaſons; either becauſe that which is ſo called, by ſome, is no other than wild enthuſiaſm, or that they are unacquainted with the thing intended by the term: What we mean by it is, *The Goſpel underſtood, believed, ſenſibly enjoyed, and practically exemplified.*

We may place the Chriſtian in a two-fold point of view; either in re-

ference to his public Character, whereby he falls under the obſervation of others; or in his private retirements, wherein he comes under his own ſelf-examination; here he enquires into his Motives, and often cenſures and condemns what others may applaud;—he lays open the cloſe receſſes of his breaſt and makes us acquainted with the ſecret frames of his mind.—Thus his temptations, trials, and conſolations, often prove ſupporting by way of encouragement to thoſe of his fellow Chriſtians in ſimilar Circumſtances. With this view, and under this hope, the following ſheets are now made public.

Writings, indeed, of this ſort, are often made the ſubject of burleſque and ridicule amongſt the Prophane: but True Chriſtians, I believe, generally peruſe them with ſuch an inward guſt, or pleaſing ſenſation, as eaſily obtain from them that approbation which is of ſuch weight with the

Wiſe

Wiſe and Thinking part of the world, that all the banter and raillery of Infidels can in no wiſe counterbalance. —As to the acceptableneſs, therefore, of ſuch ſubjects amongſt Chriſtians, who are not half dead by a ſtupifying ſpirit of lukewarmneſs, Teſtimonies might be multiplied with eaſe from the ſuffrages of all chriſtian nations; but as no teſtimonies in the world can make that valuable which is not ſo in itſelf, I ſhall be ſparing of my Citations, and preſent only the following.

'The Advantages reſulting from 'ſuch hiſtories' (viz. of the tempers and lives of God's faithful ſervants) 'are evident, from the large room 'afforded them in the ſcriptures, and 'from the very nature of ſuch ac-'counts: for what as a mean of grace, 'can have a more powerful tendency, 'to uſefulneſs, than to have a picture 'before our eyes, of the holy diſpo-

'ſition and conduct, preſſing tempta-
'tions, hard conflicts, perſevering
'conſtancy, ſtrong conſolations, and at
'laſt, the abſolute and eternal victory
'of the *Cloud of witneſſes* gone before
'us to glory?——Hence do we learn
'the nature of the chriſtian warfare;
'hence do we diſcern where our op-
'poſitions lie; hence are we taught
'where to look for ſupplies of wiſ-
'dom and ſtrength; and hence are
'we animated to tread in their ſteps,
'and purſue the ſame path, till we
'reach *the end of our race, the ſalva-*
'*tion of our ſouls**."—The words of another are as follow;

'Though the Goſpel of Chriſt was
'abundantly confirmed in the firſt ages
'of chriſtianity by teſtimonies of
'every kind, yet I love to ſee daily
'and living witneſſes ariſe, and ſet
'their ſeal to the Truth and Divinity
'of this Goſpel. Every tranſcript of
'it

* Preface to *Gibbons*'s 'Hidden Life of a Chriſtian.'

'it in the heart of a Chriſtian is a 'new argument to confirm it. Bleſ- 'ſed is he that believes, for he has 'the witneſs in himſelf, that Jeſus 'is the Son of God! And bleſſed is 'he that hath wiſdom and courage in 'this unbelieving age to make this 'inward teſtimony appear and ſhine 'to the world!'—A little below, he adds, 'Now though every chriſtian 'hath ſome inward ſenſe of divine 'things, yet every one has not ſo rich 'a variety of experiences; and among 'thoſe that have, few are ſo watch- 'ful as to take a due account of them; 'few ſo wiſe as to judge aright con- 'cerning them; and few ſo faithful 'and bold as to conſign theſe things 'to writing for the uſe of others. 'Men that are fit to publiſh their ob- 'ſervations of this kind, generally 'imagine, that humility requires to 'bury them in ſilence and darkneſs*.'

* Dr. *Watts*'s 'Recommendation of *Halyburton*'s Life.'

To reſcue our Author's obſervations of himſelf, and his ſtate towards God, from that oblivion to which otherwiſe they muſt have been conſigned, will not, we hope, be eſteemed a piece of unneceſſary ſervice to the chriſtian commonwealth: I ſhall leave this, however, to the deciſion of the candid Reader, after I have laid before him a few things by way of Introduction to the enſuing papers.

As to the Author, I beg leave to refer him for further information to an account of his life, publiſhed a few years ſince, under the following title, "*Some Memoirs of the Life of* "JOHN GLOVER, *late of Norwich*, "*&c.*"—As to the *Treatiſe*, if it is not able to ſpeak for itſelf, much leſs am I to ſpeak for it; this, however, I may ſay, Reader, that if it has coſt me ſome *pains*, I truſt it has brought me ſome *profit*, more of which I deſire for myſelf, and wiſh alſo for thy ſoul.

In

In tranſcribing the papers (which contained almoſt a daily account of near ten years) I uſed my own judgment, indeed, in ſelecting thoſe parts which I apprehended moſt ſuited unto general inſtruction; ſome others, perhaps, might have tranſcribed ſeveral paſſages which I have omitted, and omitted others which I have tranſcribed, and poſſibly to more advantage; however, I have this to plead in my own excuſe,—I have done what I could.—I have endeavoured to avoid *Tautologies*, ſo far as can be expected in a work of this nature, where (in the courſe of ſo many years) a *ſameneſs* of experience muſt neceſſarily occur.—I have aimed at as much *Variety* as poſſible, in order to keep up the ſpirit of the work, that it might not grow flat and formal upon the reader's mind; but, if after all, it *cloys* him in the peruſal, I cannot help it I own; only this I requeſt, that he will not endeavour to make

others

others *ſick* of it, before he has proved it *unwholeſome food*.—I have conſcientiouſly adhered to the *ſenſe* of the Author, that the Book and the Title-page might not be at variance; but I have taken the liberty to ſhorten, or abridge, to leave out, or to add, a ſentence, where it tended to elucidate a ſentiment, or caſt light upon a paſſage, and to alter the language where I thought it neceſſary.

As to *objections* that may be made to the work, I ſhall concern myſelf in none of them here, ſo as to anticipate them, and attempt an anſwer before-hand; reſting ſatisfied in what I have hinted above, that the Book muſt ſpeak for itſelf. One thing however I think incumbent upon me to remark, and to offer ſome conſiderations upon, which may, poſſibly, be of uſe to ſome readers: What I refer to is, That in the courſe of the enſuing papers you may find ſeveral *promiſes* alluded to, or expreſſed, by our

Author

Author, as the ground of encouragement and matter of conſolation to his ſoul, which promiſes may perhaps be thought to have no relation to *preſent* times, or to individuals, but to things long ſince paſt, or to the church collectively taken.—In this caſe I beg leave, firſt, to ſubjoin a caution, leſt the unwary reader ſhould be inadvertently led into any miſtaken rule of interpreting Scripture, which the Author meant not, and the Editor proteſts againſt. There are too many, who, through the powers of a warm imagination, not duly tempered with ſolid judgment, are vaſtly bent upon *allegorizing* the ſcriptures and think they find out and diſplay wonderous wiſdom in applying all ſorts of Paſſages, Promiſes, Narratives, &c. in the Word of God, to the *preſent caſe*, and ſo to the comfort of the believing ſoul; without duly conſidering, how often by that means they tend to ſap the very foúnda-

foundation of the Chriſtian's Hope, in overturning the Bible itſelf by their falſe and far-fetched interpretations; and, (to uſe the words of another author, whoſe praiſe is in the Churches), 'I have added theſe things becauſe 'I find many very ready to *allegorize* 'upon the ſcripture without any due 'conſideration of the Analogy of 'faith, or the proportion of things 'compared one to another, or any re-'gard to the firſt genuine ſenſe of the 'words which they make uſe of. 'This is plainly to *corrupt the word 'of God*; and however they who 'make uſe of ſuch perverted alluſions 'of things, may pleaſe the *fancies* of 'ſome perſons, they render them-'ſelves contemptible to the *judicious**.'

Having ſaid thus much by way of *Caution*, I would add ſomething further by way of *Explanation*:

It muſt be confeſſed, that while many err as above, there are others who

* Dr. *Owen* on Heb. chap. iii. vol. 2, page 76.

who run into a contrary extreme, and in order to avoid falling into the abſurdities of ſuch ſtrained alluſions, do themſelves ſtretch the point too far, and ſo in ſome ſort, rob the children of God themſelves of the *bread of life* laid up in the promiſes of grace and glory frequently to be found in the Old Teſtament, as well as the New.—In oppoſition to this ſentiment, as well as in abhorrence of the former, the ſuffrage of the fore-cited Author may be pleaded;—'There 'hath not been (ſaith he) in our days 'a more deſperate attempt, againſt 'the *Life of Religion*, and the whole '*Covenant Relation* between God and 'the church, than that whereby the 'application of the promiſes recorded 'in the Scripture, unto the preſent 'ſtate, condition, and wants of be-'lievers, hath been oppoſed and ri-'diculed.' The ſubſtance of the Doctor's reaſons for the application pleaded for, is as follows:—'All the promiſes

'miſes made unto the church, and 'every particular member of it, for 'the uſe of the church, are made '*equally unto the whole church*, and 'every member of it, in every age, ac-'cording as the grace and mercy of it 'is ſuited unto their ſtate and conditi-'on. There was in many of the pro-'miſes of old, ſomething of eſpecial 'privilege (as in that of a kingdom to '*David*) and ſomewhat that reſpected 'circumſtances, and the ſtate of the 'people in the land of *Canaan*, where-'in we are only *analogically* concern-'ed. But as unto the grace, love, 'and mercy of God in them all, with 'their accommodation unto all our 'caſes and neceſſities, they belong unto 'all Believers, no leſs than they did 'unto them, unto whom they were 'firſt given and made. Hence' (he goes on) 'Faith ſets every believer in 'the room or place of him or them 'unto whom the promiſes were origi-'nally made; and as they are record-

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'ed in the Scripture, wherein God 'continues to ſpeak unto the church; 'they are ſpoken directly unto every 'one of them*.'——If the reader attends unto theſe remarks, we truſt, he will find no miſapplication of ſcripture promiſes, nor any thing that tends to miſguide him as to the knowledge of the Divine Word.

Committing the whole unto the bleſſing of Him who '*worketh all in 'all*,' I reſt,

Chriſtian Reader,

Thy Soul's well-wiſher,

J. C.

MATTISHALL, Norfolk,
Sept. 24, 1779.

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* Dr. *Owen* on Hebrews, chapter xiii. 5, vol. 4. page 226, 227.

THE

HIDDEN AND HAPPY LIFE

OF A

CHRISTIAN, &c.*

March 3*d*, 1764. HAVING for ſome time had a fear of dying pangs, and the amazing change of paſſing from this body into the world of ſpirits, fearing, as it were, the darkneſs of the paſſage, I found great relief yeſterday in prayer; was given to ſee, and (in a manner) to feel, that the Lord is my light and ſtrength, and that He is ſuch an Almighty, all-ſufficient ſupport,

* In the manuſcript there is no title-page prefaced to the Diary; it is probable there was ſomething of that ſort, but it ſeems to have been rent or worn off;—however, the Editor has the greateſt reaſon to believe the deſign of the Author was as follows:

"An Attempt to glorify God, by writing a brief account (in my daily papers) of the Lord's dealings with me both in Providence and Grace."

port, as can command all fear, doubt, and darkneſs to depart; and life, light, joy, and peace to ſpring up in the ſoul, even at the hour of death; and withal, I had a ſtrong perſuaſion in my mind that it ſhould be ſo with me ‖ thro' the riches of the Grace and Love of Chriſt.—This greatly comforted me and cauſed the fear to vaniſh. What a wonderful ſupport is God to the ſoul; who can cauſe light, faith, joy, peace, and comfort to ariſe in a moment! Thus He fulfils his promiſe, "I will make darkneſs light before them."—Glory, honor, and praiſe be to Him who ſitteth on the Throne, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever, Amen.—

8 and 9*th*.—This affliction is ſanctified to me; the Lord doth even make ſickneſs and diſeaſes to be bleſſings thro' the power and grace of his Spirit; it is good for me that I am afflicted: I find my faith, hope, and confidence in God my Saviour increaſe; the Atonement, Righteouſneſs, Grace, and Love of Chriſt appear more precious; the word and promiſes of God ſeem to comfort me much; I am enabled to reſt on God in Chriſt as All-ſufficient; am aſſiſted to pray in more faith and in a ſenſe of, and dependance upon the faithful promiſes of God in Chriſt Jeſus.—Glory be to God thro' Jeſus Chriſt, by the Holy Ghoſt! Amen.

13*th*, Very

‖ Nor did he hope in vain; for as he truſted ſo he found. See the ſermon, (p. 23, 24,) annexed to the *Memoirs of the Life of* John Glover.

13*th*.—Very dull at waking; unfit for meditation; much aſſiſted in prayer when up; the Lord enableth me to pray with more faith and a greater ſenſe of the Divine Preſence. A life ſpent in communion with God in Chriſt is the only life of peace and happineſs, delight and comfort. I have offered my ſoul, body, life, deſires, affections, thoughts, deſigns, and purſuits to glorify my God and Saviour; deſiring in all things to have a ſingle eye to God's glory; and in every deſign to aſk myſelf, "Do I, in this, intend the glory of God? is it proper, or has it a tendency to that end? am I in the way of duty? is it God's way? how does it agree with his will and word? is it not ſelf-ſeeking, or ſelf-pleaſing; or my own will, intereſt or fancy more than the will or glory of God?"—And becauſe the heart is deceitful, I will (thro' grace) do nothing without laying it before God in prayer, enquiring to know his will, to be directed by his word, providence, and grace; deſiring the Lord in all things to direct and guide me, to undertake and chooſe for me, to prevent and keep me by his grace; to ſearch me, to ſhew me every falſe way, to enable me to watch my heart, thoughts, words and actions, to watch unto prayer, all prayer.—Lord! who is ſufficient for theſe things? keep me by thy Spirit, that I may glorify thy name.

17*th*.—Experience of much temptation, eſpecially to prevent, hinder or deaden prayer. Truly the chriſtian life is a warfare indeed!—O what need

need of ſtrength from above; what cauſe to watch, ſtand faſt, and to pray always, that we may be able to ſtand againſt the wiles of Satan, who watcheth continually to ruin our ſouls, to deſtroy our peace, to draw us from the *one thing needful!*—When we give up ourſelves to glorify God in all things, then we muſt expect perſecution of one kind or other; for Satan will ſtir up enemies within and without to war againſt the ſoul; this I have much experience of; but the Lord is faithful and will make a way to eſcape. I am *more than conqueror through Him that loved me!*—I find much peace and conſolation in reſiſting temptations, and ſweet refreſhing anſwers to prayer. O! that bleſſed promiſe, "*If ye ſhall "aſk any thing in my name, I will do it*§."—I ſeem more and more aſſiſted in prayer, have more and more conſolation in reading the Divine Word; it is ſweet, comforting and ſupporting, thro' the teaching of the Divine Spirit.—All glory be to God and the riches of His free grace in Chriſt Jeſus, which alone keeps my ſoul.

23*d*.—Still weak and low; much comforted and ſtrengthened in prayer; reading the Divine Word ſeems to impart more faith, light, peace, reſt, truſt and confidence in God as my God and Father in Chriſt.—Aſſiſted to write and ſpeak a word for God; enabled to meditate on the word of God; the truth, wiſdom, love, power and goodneſs

§ John xiv. 14.

goodneſs of God as He is in Chriſt.—O! the myſtery of God in Chriſt! "Ye ſhall know in that day, that I am in the Father, you in me, and I in you." John xiv. 20.—"He that hath ſeen me hath ſeen the Father."——Received a comfortable letter which gave on account of a work of Grace, of Chriſt's being revealed and exalted in the hearts of many perſons, by the preaching of their pariſh-miniſter; many ſeals and witneſſes to the truth and power of the word convincing and converting ſinners through the preaching of Jeſus Chriſt.—All glory be to Thee O Lord.

31*ſt*. I am brought to the end of another month, in which I have experienced much of the faithfulneſs, goodneſs, and love of God towards me, helping, comforting, and ſupporting me under all my weakneſſes and afflictions, enabling my ſoul to rejoice in Chriſt, and to believe, hope, and reſt in Him.———The Spring is coming on, every thing begins to look pleaſant; this uſed to give me comfort, but now I look forward to the eternal Spring in the Paradiſe of God, expecting *to be diſſolved and to be with Chriſt*.

April 1*ſt*. I am now brought to the fourth month of this affliction; the Lord deals very graciouſly with me according to his own great mercy; tis his goodneſs that I have my reaſon and ſenſes, and that I can read, write, meditate, and pray, and that with much comfort: how great is

his love that I am preſerved from doubts, fears of death and puniſhment, from ſatan's deluſions and aſſaults; and that I am kept in peace and content, reſting upon God as my God and Father in Chriſt. ———This day moſt people are gazing at the eclipſe of the ſun; it makes me think how much the glorious Sun of Righteouſneſs is eclipſed, and yet how few trouble themſelves about that, or mourn for his abſence, or pray for the return of his glorious light and preſence to his church and people. Lord! quicken us by thy Spirit.

6*th*.—Extremely heavy and dull in the morning, unfit to read, pray, or meditate, yet was in ſome meaſure aſſiſted in thoſe duties; better performed poorly than not at all: I am afraid of *omiſſions*; they are dangerous: *one omiſſion* makes way for *another*, that brings deadneſs and perhaps commiſſions of ſin. O! what need to watch, pray, ſtand faſt, and cry unto God for grace, faith, wiſdom, and ſtrength. The chriſtian life is a warfare, in which, whoever is engaged, he muſt fight, watch, and pray againſt ſpiritual enemies, but (which is a comfortable conſideration) the Lord is our ſtrength, ſhield, and life.

18*th*.—Received a moſt ſweet refreſhing letter from a moſt eminent chriſtian, filled with wiſdom, rich in faith and abounding grace, whoſe labours God has bleſſed to my ſoul.—Saw great reaſon to admire, praiſe, and glorify God's gracious providence, which opened a correſpondence between

Mrs.

Mrs. Dutton and myſelf; her experience, books, and letters the Lord hath bleſſed to my increaſe in knowledge, faith, hope, and comfort; and opened greater views of the Lord's glorious power, wiſdom, goodneſs, love, mercy, free-grace, and faithfulneſs. All glory, love and praiſe be to his holy and wonderous name, who condeſcends to bleſs a worm.

26*th*.—Had ſome refreſhment in reading Lady Brooke's experience, who was a very gracious woman.

May 1*ſt*. I am brought to the beginning of another month. In the laſt I have experienced much of the love, truth, goodneſs and faithfulneſs of God, ſupporting, aſſiſting and comforting me; keeping my ſoul in faith, peace, and patience; 'tis grace and grace alone that enableth me to be ſatisfied and contented, that aſſiſts me to pray, write, or ſpeak a word for God's glory, that preſerves me, and helps me to truſt in God as my God and Father in Chriſt.—The Lord is very gracious, rich in mercy, and deals not with me according to my ſin, but according to his own great free love and grace for his own great Name's ſake.—Am very weak in body and mind alſo; but all my freſh ſprings of grace and ſtrength are in the Lord who will never leave me nor forſake me. Glory be to his Name!——

6*th*, *Lord's-Day*,—Much aſſiſted and comforted in prayer theſe two mornings paſt.—had much ſoul-comfort and refreſhment in the holy communion;

munion; ſurely 'tis a moſt bleſſed ordinance to my ſoul. I was melted with love, my ſoul cried out for Chriſt, and deſired to fly out of this body of ſin and death to be with Chriſt. O! why are his chariots ſo long in coming? make haſte my Beloved! My ſoul is united to Chriſt, and longeth and thirſteth for full communion with him.—All glory, love, and praiſe be to the glorious Trinity.

June 1ſt.—I am come to the ſixth month of this affliction, if I may call it ſo, for tho' I am weak and unfit for buſineſs, yet the Lord doth comfort, ſupport, and give me peace and joy in believing, and is to me an All-ſufficient God, an All-ſatisfying Good. Another month is paſt in which I have experienced much mercy, goodneſs, and love; the Lord is faithful according to his promiſe even to me a vile ſinner.—Was much refreſhed by reading the following paſſages in a letter to a goſpel miniſter. "Fear not, thou worm Jacob; weak Jacob hath for his ſupport and defence the Mighty God; be not diſmayed at the attempt of the Lord's enemies; you ſhall come from the field victorious; ſay, when I am weak then am I ſtrong; the power of Chriſt ſhall reſt upon you; happy is he who hath the God of Jacob for his help; the infinite faithfulneſs of his promiſe will never leave thee, nor forſake thee: when tempeſts roar and billows riſe, our great Lord by one word can ſoon turn the rougheſt ſtorm into a moſt delightful calm!—the ſtrong God

God, the everlaſting JAH, rideth upon the heavens in thine help.—He delights to do great things by weak inſtruments; thus He caſt down Jericho's walls by the ſound of rams horns*; and routed the numerous hoſt of *Midian* by lamps and broken pitchers, with only the cry of "The ſword of the Lord and of Gideon †!"—He is the Rock of Ages. His everlaſting ſtrength is engaged for your weakneſs; while you ſhout for victory, God will ſmite the adverſaries—ſtand ſtill in faith and ſee the ſalvation of God, for the battle is not your's, but the Lord's."——

3*d*, *Lord's-Day*.—Favoured with the Divine Preſence at the communion: an inward ſenſe of the love of God in Chriſt comforted and greatly refreſhed my ſoul; this is a moſt divine ordidance, in which I enjoy ſomewhat of heaven; when the Lord ſheds abroad his love in my heart, then I am drawn by love to long and deſire to depart that I may be with Chriſt, whoſe love draws my ſoul. God in Chriſt is the wonder of all wonders! the joy, delight, and glory of all ſaints; yea, the wonder of angels alſo.—O when ſhall I come into his preſence!——All glory, honour, praiſe, and love be to God for ever and ever.

10*th*.—Seem to decline much and go towards the grave; I think I cannot recover§. I am kept

* Joſh. vi. † Judges vii.

§ Yet was he continued in a weak and low condition (and ſometimes exceedingly ſo) near ten years after this.

kept in peace thro' Divine ſupport; I keep looking for that great change, the unſeen world; how amazing!—yet the Lord gives me faith to reſt on Him to be my all-ſufficient ſtrength, comfort, and ſupport: the Lord ſaith, Fear thou not, for I am thy God, I will help thee and make darkneſs light before thee. The Lord is Life in death, joy in ſorrow, light in darkneſs, ſtrength in weakneſs.—Glory be to God, Father, Son and Holy Ghoſt.

July 1ſt.—I am brought to the beginning of another month. This is the ſeventh month ſince I was diſabled for buſineſs; the Lord is exceeding gracious to me, this weak ſtate is a bleſſing to me, thro' grace; the Lord permits me to live in peace and comfort, doth ſatisfy and bleſs me under all my weakneſſes; giveth me outward and inward peace. Glory be to his Name!—Enabled to go to the communion; had a moſt ſweet ſight and ſenſe of the love of God in Chriſt.—Find I can never raiſe my ſoul in this ſacrament to any degree of faith and love of myſelf, no; it depends entirely on the free gift of grace, beſtowing on the ſoul a freſh unction of the Holy Ghoſt, which quickeneth the ſoul to act faith and love, &c.—All glory, love, and praiſe be unto the glorious triune God. Hallelujah!

22*d.*—Very dull and unfit for prayer, yet aſſiſted in it and comforted, and enabled to pray with ſome degree of faith. We muſt go to duties truſting to be aſſiſted by Chriſt's Spirit; go as far as we can and the Lord will carry us on; not ſit and neglect duties becauſe we find not a *preſent*

ſent deſire, but ſtir up the gift of grace that is in us; ariſe and be doing, and the Lord will be with us.———

Auguſt 1ſt.—This is the eighth month of my affliction, or rather of a great bleſſing, for thro' divine grace and love this weak ſtate is made ſo to me; the Lord doth indeed make all things work together for good to them who love Him; and bleſſed be His Name, He hath drawn me to love Him as revealed in Chriſt Jeſus.——This day I finiſhed writing the "Parallel between God's ancient people's coming out of Egypt and the Chriſtian's pilgrimage thro' the wilderneſs of this world;" the Lord inclined and enabled me to write it, and now I offer it to the acceptance of God in the name and merits of Jeſus Chriſt, not knowing the Divine Will concerning it; but commit it to his grace and providence, deſiring, if it pleaſe the Lord, it may be bleſſed to his glory and his people's good*.

4*th.*—Went a few miles into the country; had a pleaſant ride and much of the preſence of God; was alſo refreſhed in body, the air ſeemed to revive me: had little opportunity of glorifying God, or of being alone for retirement and devotion, yet the Lord favoured me with peace.

5*th.*—Viſited a religious perſon, diſcourſed of Divine things, and had ſome ſweet opportunities for

* This was afterwards publiſhed under the title of "Remarks on the Paſſage of the Iſraelites thro' the wilderneſs to the land of Canaan, &c." and has paſſed thro' a third edition.—*price* 6d

for prayer; was enabled to pray with comfort, and to ſpeak many things of the glory, grace, and unſearchable riches of Chriſt, and of the happineſs of thoſe who were truly united in ſoul to Him; had much refreſhment in ſpeaking, hoping the Lord would give an heart to underſtand and believe.—In the evening had another opportunity for prayer and religious diſcourſe, for which I praiſe the Lord!———

6*th*.—Endeavoured to return home; I ſeemed to grow better in health. It was ſweet and pleaſant air:—had ſome comfort in viewing the glorious goodneſs of God in his works of Creation and Providence.—The fields overſpread with corn, the plenty of cattle, ſheep, fowls and fruits was a charming ſight—it refreſhed my ſoul to ſee the riches of Divine Bounty! how "*He crowneth the year with his goodneſs, and the clouds drop fatneſs*;" ſo that the dwellings in the wilderneſs, the hills and vales rejoice; man only is unthankful and inſenſible! Had a pleaſant ride home. The Lord carried me out, refreſhed me, and brought me home in peace. Glory be to his wonderous and holy name: the Lord is my comfort, defence, and my delight; He keepeth my ſoul in peace and his mercy endureth for ever! "*Praiſe the Lord O my ſoul and forget not all his benefits.*"

18*th*.—Much experience of temptation within and without, this week paſt, and ſurprized at the remains of indwelling ſin. I deſire to be delivered from this body of ſin and death that I may no more

more rebel againſt God.—Seem rather better in health; ſomewhat troubled hereat, fearing leſt I ſhould live long. I am not reſigned as I ought, but am poor, weak, blind, and unbelieving, yet the Lord is very gracious to me in preventing and ſupporting me by his Grace and Providence. The Lord is my all in all. Glory be to his wonderous holy Name.—"Praiſe the Lord, O my ſoul, and forget not all his benefits."——

September 1ſt.—Another month is paſt; great are the mercies of God, through Chriſt, to me a ſinner, in preſerving, ſupporting, and comforting me.—Much experience of corruption and indwelling ſin. Lord, when ſhall I be delivered from this ſinful fleſh?—Lord, bring my ſoul out of priſon that I may praiſe thy Name.——

15*th.*—Grievous aſſaults of ſin and ſatan have bowed down my ſoul for ſome days. O, how I deſire to be diſſolved and delivered from this body of ſin and death! I groan for deliverance; I cry out, "*O Lord Jeſus, come quickly*, and ſave from ſin and ſorrow." When ſhall I come and appear before Thee?—O happy day, O bleſſed time, when this body of ſin ſhall be deſtroyed, when I ſhall be brought into the glorious preſence of Chriſt.—Praiſe to *free-grace* for this faith and hope. O Lord Jeſus, come quickly and receive my ſpirit.——

18*th.* The Lord hath graciouſly helped me out of my diſtreſs and abated the temptation. Satan thruſt ſore at me that I might fall, but the Lord

is my help, ſtrength, hope, and confidence; the Lord will ſave me for his own great Name's ſake, becauſe his "Mercy endureth for ever!—Praiſe the Lord O my ſoul and forget not all his benefits."

27*th*.—More experience of indwelling ſin and of the aſſaults of ſatan: found, however, help and ſtrength from Chriſt aſſiſting and ſupporting me.—Laſt night was ſorely buffetted and this morning alſo, yet the Lord *kept* me, and in the afternoon *comforted* me and abated the temptation. *Sin* is the *burden* and *plague* of my ſoul, *more bitter than death*. O Lord come quickly, and take me from this body of ſin and death.

October 1*ſt*.—Much experience of ſin, corruption, and temptation this month paſt.—Have been much oppreſſed with peeviſh evil tempers, ſorely ſoiled and buffetted, but not forſaken; for when I fell the Lord lifted me up and prevented me by His Grace.—Had great expectations of rural peace†, comfort, and delight in coming to this place; but ſin and ſatan foiled me and greatly diſturbed my conſolation. How vain is it to expect reſt and comfort from *places*, *perſons*, and *things* here below! All is vanity, a cheat, a dream; a mere deluſion!—Lord, grant I may never look for, or expect comfort and reſt from the creatures; but in Thee Alone let my ſoul and ſpirit find all comfort, peace, and delight.

Enabled

† Being now in the country.

4th.—Enabled to ride home; in the way was preſerved, evidently by the Lord, from an hurt by a waggon grating againſt my knee; one inch nearer muſt have cruſhed me*, but the Lord kept me and preſerved me from the evil, and alſo brought me (and my wife likewiſe) home in peace and ſafety. My habitation, and all my affairs were preſerved in peace; this is the Lord's doing, who alone keepeth our ſouls and bodies from evil and our tabernacles in peace. Praiſe the Lord, O my ſoul.

21ſt.—Extremely dull in family prayer; was much quickened and refreſhed in reading God's Word; after which, was enabled to pray in faith with much comfort and peace. When I am weak, then am I ſtrong.—In the Communion, was ſweetly drawn with love, and bleſſed with a ſenſe of the Divine Preſence, which comforted my

 ſoul.

* Poſſibly ſome may think this circumſtance too trivial to be recited here, ſeeing inſtances of a ſimilar nature ſo frequently occur; and I own, were they as frequently noticed, the objection would have its weight; but that 'tis far otherwiſe, there needs no great labor to prove; but with our pious Author, ſuch *accidents* were regarded as *Providences*; and if the reader ſhould hereby be reminded of ſome inſtances when perhaps there was but a ſtep between him and death, and by this means be excited to praiſe his great Deliverer, in remembrance of his mercy, and likewiſe to live in a more humble dependance on him always, the Editor will have his end; nor will ſuch a reader, I preſume, be at all diſpoſed to cavil at the remark.

We may embelliſh this note, and corroborate the ſentiment, by reciting the following lines of the ingenious Mr. *Thompſon*,

"In every common inſtance God is ſeen.
And to the man, who caſts his mental eye
Abroad, *unnoticed* wonders riſe."

ſoul.—Was enabled to feed on Chriſt by faith, greatly deſiring to be diſſolved that I might be ſwallowed up in the full communion of Divine Love. I begged to be thus comforted, and the Lord heard me and ſhined upon my ſoul.—Praiſe the Lord, O my ſoul, and forget not all his benefits, for his mercy endureth for ever.

November 1ſt. Another month is paſt.—Have ſeen much of the wiſdom, goodneſs, and faithfulneſs of a promiſe-keeping God.—Have alſo ſeen much of the corruptions of my own heart; have had many deliverances from ſin, ſatan, and dangers this month. The Lord hath permitted and enabled me to write, and ſpeak a word to His glory, and his people's good. All glory be to God! —Very low in body and mind this morning; I prayed the Lord to comfort me, a poor weak creature, and theſe words of Iſaiah were put into my heart, "As one whom his mother comforteth, ſo will I comfort thee." Even ſo, Lord, Amen.

4th.—Very bad all night, hardly ſtrength to riſe or ſit up; not able to pray with any comfort; no ſenſe of the Divine Preſence.—Endeavoured to exerciſe faith in Chriſt, and the Lord refreſhed me out of his Word. "I will not leave you comfortleſs, I will come unto you.—The Lord will be thine everlaſting light, and the days of thy mourning ſhall be ended."——

5th.—Somewhat better, tho' extremely weak, yet more comforted with the Divine Peace and Preſence.

Preſence. Thoſe words in Iſaiah, "Thou ſhalt not fear," ſeem to refreſh me much, as if the Lord would deliver me from all fears of death, pain, ſatan, doubts, and darkneſs.—Glory be to his holy Name.

18*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Much tempted for ſeveral days—So peeviſh, froward, &c. prayed much for deliverance. The proſpect of death is vaniſhed again. Lord grant that thy will may be my will in all things.

December 1*ſt*. 'Tis now a year ſince the Lord diſabled me for buſineſs; and he hath been graciouſly pleaſed thereby to bring me nearer to himſelf.—Great are the mercies of God to me, in giving me to live in eaſe and peace, free from trouble, noiſe, poverty, and diſtreſs; beſtowing food upon me, and all the neceſſaries and comforts I enjoy: preſerving me from grievous pains of body and diſquietneſs of mind, making my afflictions to be bleſſings, through grace; condeſcending alſo to uſe me as a weak inſtrument to his glory and praiſe,—enabling me to believe in him through Chriſt for all ſalvation, pardon, peace, grace and acceptance, freely;—permitting and enabling me to ſpeak and write a word for his glory, praiſe, and truth, which He hath been pleaſed to own and bleſs.—The Lord help and enable me to be more reſigned, to be more dead to the world, and more alive to God by faith in Jeſus Chriſt, who is my wiſdom, righteouſneſs, ſanctification, redemption!—my ſtrength, my life, my All in

All !—Glory be to the adorable Trinity for ever and ever, Amen.——

9*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Dull in the morning; enabled to pray, however, with ſome degree of faith and comfort; in the forenoon more dull, yet endeavouring to act faith on Chriſt, was much refreſhed; enabled to ſee the precioufneſs of the ſacrifice and atoning Blood of Chriſt, the infinite merits of his life and death, and the unſpeakable Love and Wiſdom of God, in giving or ordaining Jeſus Chriſt to ſeek, redeem, and juſtify loſt ſinners, in a way which confounds all man's wiſdom, abaſeth all pride, and is wholly to the praiſe of his rich, free, glorious grace.—All glory be to God.——

25*th*.—This day extremely dull, not able to lift up my heart and ſoul with thankfulneſs and praiſe for the amazing Love and Grace of God's appearing in our fleſh to work out a complete, everlaſting righteouſneſs, and to offer ſuch a wonderous ſacrifice for our ſins, to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.—In the evening was much revived and refreſhed in ſoul.—How miſerable ſhould I be, were not my hope, help, peace, ſtrength, and reſt in God !—All things beſides are empty, comfortleſs, taſteleſs, and vain !—When the heart and ſtrength fail, nothing but the Lord can bring reſt and peace to the ſoul.

28*th*. Yeſterday the Lord ſupported me when I was reproved by Mr. ——, he denied our having

having any aſſurance of being ſaved while in this life; ſaid it was fanaticiſm, &c.—I told him his doctrine was falſe, for God's word ſaid otherwiſe. He aſked, "How ſhould I know better than he, whoſe education was far preferable to mine?" I replied, "Vain philoſophy could not teach him the things of God, nor could he underſtand God's Word unleſs he was taught by God's Spirit." I told him, "He had better go upon his knees before God, and pray to be taught by Him whether theſe things are ſo or not;" and moreover I added, "If Chriſt owned me I was not concerned how I ſtood in *his* eſteem."—I praiſe the Lord for enabling me to ſpeak to his glory.—Theſe two days I have had more of the Divine preſence, peace, and comfort in my ſoul, and enjoyed more of the ſpirit of prayer.—Praiſed be God, my ſtrength, whoſe promiſe faileth not.

January 1ſt. 1765, The Lord hath brought me to the end of another year, (and now to the entrance upon a new one.) Manifold and great have been the Lord's mercies to me this year paſt. Preventing mercies, preſerving mercies, temporal mercies, ſpiritual mercies; ſupporting me under all my weakneſſes, bearing all my provocations, bleſſing and ſanctifying all my afflictions, providing for me, keeping me from grievous pains, fevers, and temptations; giving me to live in peace, quietneſs, and comfort, uſing me to ſome purpoſes of his glory, wiſdom, and grace. Many have been my ungrateful returns,

yet

yet the Lord hath bleſſed me, and his mercy and goodneſs have followed me continually. All glory, honor, thanks, and praiſe, be to the exalted triune God.——

12*th*.—All this week kept in peace, enabled to reſt in God my Saviour; alſo to believe, hope, and pray with comfort and aſſurance that the Lord heareth and will anſwer me.—Received ſome comforting letters:—enabled to write ſeveral letters and to look unto God for his bleſſing upon them.—Extremely weak, almoſt lame, with pains; but God in Chriſt is help, hope, comfort, and relief.

19*th*.—Have been much comforted and refreſhed with theſe ſcriptures: "Be ſtrong and of a good courage; I will be with thee, I will not fail thee nor forſake thee, only be thou ſtrong and very courageous." O ſweet command!—"Be not afraid, neither be thou diſmayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee whitherſoever thou goeſt." O glorious promiſe! Nay, "I have called thee by name."—And moreover the obſervation of *Bogatzky* has been uſeful to me; he ſays "When we pray to Chriſt, we ſhould think as if we heard him anſwer to every petition*, I will, I will, I will do it, according to his promiſe John xiv. 14.———Much aſſiſted in prayer in the morning—enabled to perform it in much faith, with a ſenſe of the Divine Preſence.

February

* viz. That is guided by the *word*, grounded on the *promiſe*, and directed to *the glory of God*.

February 1ſt. Another month is paſt; the Lord ſupports and carries me on from month to month, bleſſing me and enabling me to believe, truſt, and hope in him as my God and Father in Chriſt. Many have been the mercies of the Lord to me this month, both in Providence and Grace. "The Lord is my ſtrength, my ſhepherd, therefore I lack nothing. "As one whom his mother comforteth, ſo doth the Lord comfort me;" and He is pleaſed to permit and enable me to ſpeak, and write a word to his glory and praiſe. All glory be to God.

17*th.*——I have ſearched to find what is the cauſe of Satan's prevailing againſt me, [*viz.* in thoſe temptations and corruptions he had juſt before acknowledged and lamented in his Diary, after which he piouſly ſubjoins] Lord Jeſus, heal my ſoul.——This hath been an unprofitable week. I have done little for God's glory. Lord, quicken my ſoul.

24.—Much experience of indwelling ſin, tho' ſo weak in body; yet alas, ſin is not ſubdued! this cauſeth me to deſire to be diſſolved that the body of ſin may be deſtroyed. Meditations, and acting faith on the great ſacrifice and Death of Chriſt is my remedy. Chriſt alone can deliver me; this is my hope, my help, my comfort. Chriſt is my great Phyſician, and through rich, free grace, my faith and hope is ſupported; and the Lord will perfect his work of grace in me.

March

March 1ſt.—Much oppreſſed with indwelling ſin and temptation laſt month.—Experience of great corruptions.—Groaned earneſtly to be delivered from this body of ſin—guilty of great folly in ſpeaking too much—apt to be too warm—am not enough upon my guard, but offend in my tongue. Lord, do thou keep the door of my lips: the enemy often foils me here—'tis beſt for me to be alone—ſatan beſets me within and without. Lord, keep my heart and ſpirit. The Lord's goodneſs, mercy, love, and faithfulneſs is great to me a vile ſinner!

3d.—Very dull in the morning; dull in prayer, weak in faith, weak in body, groaning under a burden of ſin which diſquiets my ſoul. Sin is worſe than Death:—cannot ſee what the Lord's will is concerning me—not likely to die, but to live in weakneſs. O that ſin were deſtroyed!—Refreſhed in reading the viii. ix. and xi. chapters of Romans.—In the evening, much comforted in ſinging—ſuch views of future glory and happineſs as cauſed my ſoul to long earneſtly to be ſinging in heaven.

4th.—Much aſſiſted in prayer—great refreſhment in reading the xii. and xvii. chapters of St. John—greatly drawn with deſires of deliverance from this life. My ſoul panteth after God; nothing can comfort or ſatisfy me but Chriſt: this world is to me a dry and barren deſert, an howling wilderneſs, a great bedlam. Was it not for the hope of death, how miſerable ſhould I be.—

Bleſſed

Bleſſed be God, I hope to be diſſolved and be with Chriſt for ever.

April 1ſt. The Lord hath carried me through another month, feeding me, ſupporting me in ſoul and body. Tho' ſtill weak; little alteration: yet, my ſoul, wait thou ſtill upon God, for my hope is in Him.

11*th.*—Much company—unfitted for prayer, diſturbed in it; this is often the caſe, and herein I ſee much of ſatan's artifice. Seldom but ſomething happens to interrupt prayer, to draw from it, or to unfit the mind for it; but the Lord enableth me to perſevere, to watch unto prayer, and by no means to be diverted or drawn from it. I believe there is much ſpiritual wiſdom in watching ſtrictly againſt all temptations to omit prayer, and divine intercourſe with God in Chriſt; as, by diligently attending hereunto, the ſoul grows in grace, in faith, in ſpiritual ſtrength. And for this reaſon 'tis no wonder that ſatan is ever trying by all manner of wiles and temptations to prevent prayer, to omit it or perform it ſlightly; for hereby faith is weakened, grace impaired; and, falling firſt from a cloſe walk with God, neglect of duty follows, and commiſſion of ſin is the conſequence.

May 1ſt. I am come to the beginning of another month: the Lord doth preſerve, ſupport, and comfort me; many are the mercies of God to me; the Lord is my peace, helper, benefactor, defence; the Author of every comfort, the Giver

Giver of every bleſſing.———Much temptation and trouble this day for endeavouring to defend the truth—called evil names and laden with all manner of reproaches. The Lord was very gracious to me, keeping my ſoul from tumult and paſſion.——Was comforted and refreſhed much by a letter, which informed me of the Lord's bleſſing my poor endeavours to ſome purpoſes of his glory. Not unto me, O Lord, a vile worm, but to thy glorious Name alone be all honor, praiſe, and glory.

16*th*. This day, through the help and bleſſing of God, I ſent my poor work to be printed; this is to me a great trial of faith: I am confounded when I think of appearing in print! But in the Lord alone is my hope and help. Lord, own and bleſs thy poor worm.

18*th*.—Much trouble and temptation; weak and low in body and mind. God is all my hope, peace, and comfort.—Am quite ſick of life: This world is like a bedlam, all mad. Woe is me that I dwell in Meſech.

June 1*ſt*. Another month is paſt; the Lord is gracious in keeping, helping, and ſupporting me, enabling me to reſt on him and in him as my God and Father in Chriſt.—Very weak and low, living in proſpect of death and the grave; yet bleſſed be the Lord, my ſoul is comforted.—I find 'tis of great uſe and benefit in prayer to have (as far as we can attain) true and right conceptions of God, his word, truth, covenant, wiſdom, power,

power, love, and grace; and likewiſe of our own miſery and helpleſſneſs, that we may plead with God, pray and bring Arguments from his promiſes, attributes, and covenants, to excite faith, love, hope, truſt, and hereby take hold of His ſtrength.

26*th*. This day the Lord brought out my poor book, which cauſed me to rejoice, and give thanks to the Lord, for his goodneſs in permitting ſuch a poor, vile worm to bear teſtimony for Chriſt.—Was enabled to offer it up to God, in the name of Jeſus Chriſt; and to believe that the Lord will accept, and bleſs it to ſome purpoſes of his grace and glory, when I am dead.—I am comforted to think, that even then, I ſhall hereby ſpeak a word for my God and Saviour.

Auguſt 1*ſt*.—Yeſterday arrived at this place—the Lord preſerved me from all evil accidents in the journey—made it pleaſant—the air refreſhed me—had a kind reception at Mr. ——. My ſoul was alſo refreſhed with the peace and preſence of the Lord—enabled to pray in faith, with a ſenſe of the Love of God—to hope the Lord will bleſs me in this place, and uſe me to his glory:—enabled to reſt and truſt in the Lord for all theſe things; to whom be all honor, glory, thanks, and praiſe now and for ever.

3*d*. The laſt month the Lord was very gracious to me, ſhewing me much of his love, faithfulneſs, and grace; in particular I found his gracious help concerning my book, being ena-

bled, tho' ſo very weak, to go through the fatigue and trouble of its publication. And moreover I experienced the kindneſs of God towards me, in raiſing up friends to help and aſſiſt me in diſperſing the moſt of them, and condeſcending to bleſs and make them uſeful to ſome perſons. I was enabled to believe and truſt in the Lord for this, and bleſſed be his Name, he hath not ſuffered me to be aſhamed or confounded. Honour, power, and glory be unto Him who ſitteth upon the Throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever.

4*th*. *Lord's-Day*. — Dull and heavy in the morning — quickened afterwards — received the ſacrament of the precious Body and Blood of Chriſt, and was enabled to feed on him by faith. In the afternoon converſed much of the things of God; had much prayer alſo, and was favoured with the Divine Preſence. All glory be to God.

10*th*.—More quickened, (having complained of dullneſs for ſeveral days before)—enabled to write ſome letters and papers, as alſo to hear the Word preached in the evening; was refreſhed and comforted thereby.

11*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Enabled to pray in the morning with much nlargement—viſited by ſome lively friends—we were bleſſed with the Divine Preſence—had ſome fervent prayer and lively diſcourſe of the things of God, and particularly of the Love of Chriſt—enabled to go to Church—heard an affecting diſcourſe on prayer; after returning

turning, we ſung ſome hymns—had more profitable converſation, and prayed again.——In the whole time mine eye was kept ſingle (I truſt) to the glory of God, to whom be all honour, thanks, and praiſe.

15*th*.—Received ſeveral letters; one comforted me; by another I was grieved, particularly at ſeeing the pride and ingratitude of ſome from whom I hoped for other fruits.

22*d*. For four days paſt, very dull, weak, and low in body; unfit for any thing; heard of much contempt caſt upon me on account of my poor book, and for my oppoſing ſome falſe doctrines: the Lord enabled me to hear it with patience, and to look unto him for ſtrength to bear the croſs, to be willing to be deſpiſed for Chriſt and for the Truth's ſake. Lord, plead and maintain thine own cauſe, and enable me to bear witneſs thereunto, and to follow thy bleſſed example that I may be meek and lowly.

September 6*th*.—Refreſhed by reading the excellent Mr. *Hervey's* Letters; he obſerves, "that all the glorious, inward operations of bringing the ſoul from its blind, dead, ſinful ſtate, is entirely the work and office of the Holy Ghoſt." The Holy Spirit reveals Chriſt, leads and guides into all truth, quickens the ſoul, enlighteneth the mind, helps our infirmities in prayer.———The Spirit ſubdues our iniquities, mortifies the deeds of the body, ſheds abroad the Divine Love in our hearts, and ſanctifieth us wholly.—The Spirit

transformeth us into the Image of Chriſt, teacheth us the things of Chriſt, ſealeth us to the day of redemption, and is the earneſt of our inheritance.—From the Spirit's dwelling in us, we are to expect all the fruits of righteouſneſs, goodneſs, truth, faith, love, joy, peace, &c. &c.

29*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Was enabled to pray with fervency in the morning—went to church—was refreſhed by a diſcourſe on the peaceful and bleſſed end of a good man. In the afternoon, prayed before we parted—made me reflect how much the parting of friends reſembles death—we die daily. —Had a pleaſant ride home—was *obliged* to come then, though it was Lord's-Day*—was brought home in peace and ſafety. The Lord kept my habitation and all my affairs in peace. The Lord carried me out, preſerved me, comforted and ſupported me, and brought me home again in peace! The Lord is my ſtrength, my defence, my ſhield, my refuge, my ſupport, my confidence and truſt. Bleſſing, honour, glory, thanks, and praiſe, be unto Thee, O God, Father, Son, and Spirit, for ever and ever, Amen.

October 9*th*.—Much comforted in ſeeing an eminent perſon quickened and full of fervent love and deſire to glorify God in all things. This I had long deſired and much prayed for; the Lord anſwereth

* Hence it appears, how far our Author was from judging it lawful to take *unneceſſary* journies on the Lord's-Day; to make idle excurſions into the country, for pleaſure, recreation, &c.

anſwereth prayer ſometimes when we have given over all hope.—Greatly refreſhed at ſeeing the power of Sovereign Grace.—Finiſhed ſeveral letters to chriſtian friends—looked unto the Lord for his bleſſing upon them.—Seem rather ſtronger in body, but indwelling ſin imbitters all. Lord, deliver me.

13*th. Lord's-Day.* —Was refreſhed in the morning both in prayer and reading the word, but much more ſo in receiving the holy communion.—Was bleſſed with the Divine Preſence—melted with a feeling ſenſe of the Love of God in Chriſt—moſt divinely comforted and ſtrengthened—much drawn to deſire to depart and to be with Chriſt, and a full aſſurance that I ſhould be with Him 'ere long, greatly raiſed and elevated my ſoul. Thanks, glory, and praiſe, be to the Father, Son, and Spirit.

17*th.*—Rather dry in ſpirit for ſome days.—More weak in body and dull in mind; am, however, thro' the goodneſs of God, kept and preſerved in peace and comfort. 'Tis a great bleſſing to me to be permitted to live in eaſe and peace this latter part of my life. The Lord indulgeth me with every thing convenient; freeing me from incumbrances, troubles, worldly-buſineſs, and cares; ſuiting his dealings to my weakneſs, providing for me, ſo that I want nothing. 'Tis rich grace and mercy to take away ſuch deſires as are not for my good. O what wretched ſlavery are worldly and fleſhly deſires! What miſery to be always longing after this or the other enjoyment!

I bleſs the Lord, that through his Grace, I have leſs deſire after the eſteem and regard of men—am more willing to be deſpiſed and contemned for the name and ſake of Chriſt; and ſurely for this I ought to love and praiſe the Lord: for I ſee daily how the love of praiſe and eſteem from men enſnare many who ſeem not to diſcern it themſelves: many are led captive by their own wills in moſt things—ſeek to indulge and gratify their own vain deſires and fancies, and yet ſuppoſe they are in the way of duty; whereas the motive is no other than that they have a *mind* to do it, and the *end* is to pleaſe themſelves. Thus many deceive themſelves. 'Tis ſad to obſerve among profeſſors ſo little life, zeal, and fervency of ſpirit towards God; but on the contrary, ſome idol, luſt, vanity, indolence, ſloth, evil tempers, or worldly purſuits indulged ſo as to quench the Spirit, weaken faith, love, and zeal.

18*th*.—Yeſterday was made ſenſible that my low ſtate of faith and love, is owing to the poor, low degree of my knowledge and faith in the glorious Godhead of Chriſt. I find 'tis a great work truly to believe Chriſt to be in every reſpect *equal* to the Father: we retain ſome idea of his being *inferior*, and cannot raiſe our conceptions to his glorious equality, as the Eternal, Almighty God, the Creator, Preſerver, and Supreme Jehovah. This is the cauſe we have ſuch poor, ſhort conceptions of the glorious myſtery of the Perſon of Chriſt; that we ſee no more of the glory of the Father, in Chriſt, and are no more

changed

changed into the ſame Image. In proportion as we ſee and believe the Eternal Deity and glory of Chriſt, ſo in proportion do we ſee the glory of the myſtery of his Incarnation; the infinite merits (or the inexexpreſſible worth and precioufneſs) of his righteouſneſs, atonement, ſacrifice, and death. The unſearchable riches and infinite fulneſs of the grace, glory, and love of Chriſt, and his power to ſave unto the uttermoſt all that truly believe in him, can never in the leaſt appear to thoſe who do not with faith and reverence believe and adore his glorious Godhead. I was led to conſider theſe things much, by reading the ſeraphic *Hervey*'s Theron and Aſpaſio, vol. 3d.

19*th*. By reading *Dart*'s hiſtory of Weſtminſter-Abbey, with the monuments of the Great and Rich, was led deeply to conſider the ſhortneſs and vanity of all the world calls great, mighty, or noble. Here I read of princes and nobles, who four, five or ſix centuries ago made ſuch figure and buſtle in the world as cauſed them to be accounted the wonders of their age. Now what are they? Who envy them at this time? Alas, ſcarcely any ſo much as think of them! They are as if they never had been! Thoſe who lived in pleaſure, who dwelt in ſumptuous palaces, rode in ſtate, were counted happy and lifted up as gods; Where are they now? What is their happineſs once ſo envied? O vanity of vanities, all is vanity! A ſhadow, a dream, a tale that is told! We trample on their duſt; ſee their mouldering effigies in ſtone; but our hearts

are

are not ſuitably affected with thoſe ſtriking monitors!—Who becomes dead to the world and its vanities by ſeeing how the great, wiſe, noble, rich, and proud are crumbled to the duſt? How ſtrange, that in beholding their ſtate we ſhould not view our own, ſo as to wean us from the empty toys and pride of life! That by thoſe awful leſſons, ſo ſolemnly inculcated, we ſhould not in ſome ſort, learn to die—to conſider ourſelves as ſtrangers and pilgrims, and be excited to live like thoſe that muſt die in a few days and be caſt under the earth.—But to ſee men live as if they ſhould never die; ſing, dance, and ſport on the brink of the grave, nay, on the borders of hell, is very awful and melancholy.

Mr. *Dart* enters the vaults in this Abbey, and tells us the ſtate and condition of many princes and nobles there interred, O mortifying lectures to human pride! All their grandeur and glory is loathſome rottenneſs and mouldering duſt.—Such is all human greatneſs!—theſe are the effects of ſin!—ſin brought death. "In Adam all die," but in Chriſt ſhall all, united to him, be made alive.——What a bleſſing is Chriſt: and how great are the bleſſings of true faith in him!

"Religion! chiefeſt good to mortals given,
At once a taſte of and a guide to heaven;
The greateſt, ſureſt wealth in all our need,
Poſſeſſing Thee alone, we're rich indeed."

Nov. 3d. Lord's-Day.—Very weak both in body and mind, little of the preſence of God as to any lively ſenſations; yet enjoyed a ſettled peace, hope, and truſt in God.—Was enabled to pray in faith, and to act or exerciſe it on Jeſus Chriſt, his death and promiſes.——My heart and fleſh ſeem to fail: what a miſerable diſtreſſed creature ſhould I be was it not for the hope of eternal life, and that bleſſed ſupport of faith in Chriſt, which as an anchor of my ſoul is ſure and ſtedfaſt, and entereth into that within the vail: was it not for this, I ſhould be of all men the moſt miſerable: Bleſſed be God for this faith.

9th.— Seem to decline — extremely weak—a Week of temptations—peeviſh—helpleſs. Satan ſtirs up corruptions within and enemies without—greatly aſſaulted in prayer, enabled however to go on—had deep and awful thoughts of *death*, how I ſhould ſupport it—little comfort—had reſt in believing the Lord would ſupport me in that time of need—amazed at the thoughts of going into an unknown world of ſpirits. Lord, help me.

14th.—More weak—ſeem to decay — inward oppreſſions and ſinkings, yet able to write, read, and pray ſilently—through rich mercy and grace my ſoul is kept in peace—the faithful promiſes of God's Word and Covenant, ſupport me like a ſtrong foundation. Bleſſed be God for this grace in Jeſus Chriſt.

21ſt.—Heard of the death of Mrs. *Dutton*, one of the moſt eminent chriſtians of this age: ſhe

ſhe was a faithful witneſs of Jeſus Chriſt; a mother in Iſrael; the moſt ſteady, fervent, holy, diligent, faithful ſaint I ever correſponded with; the moſt zealous and unwearied friend I ever found. She died full of faith, heaven, and glory.—Tho' grieved at mine and others' loſs of her, yet I rejoiced and gave praiſe to God for his rich grace beſtowed on her, which enabled her to glorify the Lord both in life and death; to defend the cauſe of truth; to comfort the weak, to bear witneſs to Chriſt, to write much for his glory, and to teſtify his cauſe and truth to the laſt. My eyes pay a tribute of tears to her memory, and my ſoul longs to be gone alſo, to be delivered from ſin and ſorrow to join the bleſſed aſſembly above, to be ever with the Lord. O Lord Jeſus come quickly.

December 5th.—Much refreſhed theſe two days in reading the ſcriptures: the bleſſed word of God ſeems more and more precious.—Enabled to believe more on God's promiſes, to take hold on his covenant, to feel the power of his word.—Had much comfort in the two firſt chapters of Joſhua: "Fear not, be ſtrong, be not diſmayed," ſtrengthened me to hope and believe in the faithfulneſs of the Lord:—comforted at ſeeing the mighty power of God's grace in an eminent perſon.——Bleſſed be God.

12th. Theſe four days viſited by chriſtian friends, tho' very weak yet enabled to bear company, and alſo to ſpeak a word to God's glory. We were bleſſed with a meaſure of God's preſence

ſence, and our converſation (I truſt) as became the goſpel:—was much affected with parting, as ſuppoſing we ſhould never meet more on earth—tears on both ſides—this parting reſembles death: never more to meet on earth, how awful is the thought! I was impreſſed with it—never was ſo much affected at parting with any one, as with—: It left ſuch deep impreſſion on my mind as I never felt before. I ſought comfort in God's word and by prayer, which afforded me help and conſolation. God is every where preſent, we cannot go from him; a bleſſed comfort that the Lord never leaveth nor forſaketh thoſe who are his: this is my ſupport under decays of body and the abſence of all friends.

16*th*. This morning, while low and helpleſs, was much comforted by theſe words, which came ſweetly on my mind with power, "Thou ſhalt rejoice in the Lord, and glory in the Holy One of Iſrael." This revived me greatly, and lifted up my ſoul to God in faith and prayer, that it might be to me according to his bleſſed word and promiſe. All glory, honour, and praiſe be to Him who ſitteth on the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever.———Received a letter which informed me the Lord had bleſſed a poor word of advice I gave to one of his ſervants, and alſo that the Lord had heard my prayer for her, and ſhe ſeems ſtrengthened in a good way. All glory be to God *alone*: not unto me, O Lord, not unto me, a poor worm, who cannot help or heal myſelf,

but

but unto thy Name alone be all praiſe, thanks, and glory.

22*d*. *Lord's-Day*.—Much weakneſs and ſore temptation the paſt week; ſatan, the roaring lion, ſeeketh to hurt me, to raiſe up evil in me and againſt me, to diſturb my peace and cauſe me to fall: but the Lord is my hope, my ſtrength, and ſhield, who keepeth my ſoul.

25*th*. *Chriſtmas-Day*. Refreſhed this morning in meditating on redeeming Love, the wonderous myſtery of the incarnate God. God manifeſt in the fleſh to redeem ſinners, glorious indeed! Herein is love, grace, wiſdom, and power diſplayed: Lord, what Love and Grace is Thine! This is the myſtery of all myſteries! Angels deſire to look into it; the wonder of all wonders! ——Would we ſee God? Behold here He is!—Would we know the almighty, inviſible God? Behold him in Jeſus Chriſt!—Would we ſee and know his glory, grace, truth, and love? See it in the face and perſon of Jeſus Chriſt the incarnate God!—Would we know his will, and the way of ſalvation which leads to life and peace? Hear and learn of Chriſt Jeſus, hear his voice and live.—Would we be ſaved from curſe and hell? Let us go to Jeſus who came to ſave us.—Would we have pardon, peace, and eternal life? It is to be had only through faith in Jeſus Chriſt.——Bleſſed be God for Jeſus Chriſt, and for giving me to behold his glory in the face of his dear Son. This is all my hope, joy, peace, and conſolation; Chriſt in me the hope of glory. Oh the love of

Chriſt

Chriſt, which paſſeth knowledge; in him I have life, peace, and reſt to my ſoul. Glory be to God in the higheſt, and on earth Peace, good-will towards men. Heaven and earth reconciled, all rejoice! Glory be to God on high.

28*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Experience of much temptation, and alſo of the Lord's goodneſs and bounty, particularly in ſome preſents I received from certain friends. I obſerve this the more, and deſire to ſee the Lord's hand in it, becauſe *theſe very perſons* ſeemed offended at my open defence of the truth of God, and *oppoſition* to ſome who *oppoſed* it. For this I thought I had loſt their friendſhip and eſteem; yet, by this, I ſee the power, truth, and faithfulneſs of God, how He over-ruleth all for their good who truſt in Him, and do not value the friendſhip of men, when duty to God calls them to plead His cauſe and truth. Had I, in order to keep the favour of men, held my peace and given way to error, I doubt not, but inſtead of their *kindneſs*, I ſhould have had their *contempt*; whereas now, by fearing God rather than men, I have the favour of both. This is the Lord's doing; and according to his word and promiſe, "*They ſhall never be aſhamed or confounded that truſt in Him.*"

January 1ſt. 1766. The Lord hath carried me through another year; wonderful and gracious indeed are the Lord's dealings with me; manifold are his mercies, and great is his goodneſs. In much weakneſs I have been ſupported, and the Lord hath given me inward and outward peace:

my God hath preſerved me from trouble, harm, and loſs, in my temporal affairs, aſthough amidſt ſome apparent danger.—Hath alſo ſhewed me much kindneſs and reſpect among thoſe who fear Him, by inclining them to ſhew kindneſs and reſpect to me. The Lord hath permitted me to bear witneſs to his name and truth, by printing my little book, which He hath graciouſly owned and bleſſed in ſome meaſure.——My ſoul hath been kept in peace; Chriſt hath been my life, peace, ſhield and refuge; my all-ſufficient God.—And now, O Lord God, Father, Son, and Spirit, I bleſs, adore, thank, and praiſe Thee, for all the mercies of this year. Glory be to Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt, now and for ever more. ———'Tis now two years ſince I have done any buſineſs, yet the Lord hath provided for me*. That promiſe in Joel ii. 26. hath been ſweet to me, and I have found it fulfilled in my caſe; "*Ye ſhall eat in plenty and be ſatisfied, and ſhall praiſe the name of the Lord your God, who hath dealt wonderouſly with you; and my people ſhall never be aſhamed.*"———O Thou, holy, bleſſed, and glorious Trinity, Father, Son, and Spirit, as Thou haſt brought me to the beginning of another year, I dedicate my body, ſoul, and ſpirit, unto Thee, to be governed and uſed to Thy glory; to be ſanctified

* Viz. By bleſſing the ſmall ſubſtance which he had; which, for his wife and himſelf, was only the intereſt of a ſum of money, rather leſs than four hundred pounds; yet, by the kindneſs of Providence, this afforded a ſubſiſtence to the end of his days, without waſting much of the principal.

ſanctified and fitted for Thy ſervice: to be accepted herein, through my Saviour Chriſt. If it pleaſeth Thee, O Lord, to continue my life on earth, grant it may be to glorify thy Name. Grant, O Lord, as long as I live, I may glorify Thee in all things; that I may live by faith, be ſubdued in will to thy will; be ſanctified, humble, patient, dead to this world, and have much communion with Thee, O God, in Chriſt. Grant I may glorify Thee both in life and death, and be permitted to bear witneſs to thy faithfulneſs and truth after my deceaſe in my my humble teſtimony†. All I beg, in Chriſt's Name, and for His ſake, Amen.

5*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Weak, dull, low in body and mind; little exerciſe of faith in a lively manner, yet kept in peace.—Hope the Lord is delivering me from pride and impatience.—Methinks I am quite a ſtranger in this world; its ways and maxims are quite ſtrange and odious to me; every thing the world delights in, troubles me; I ſeem to have no buſineſs here, but like a pilgrim in a foreign land, waiting to go home. The Lord is very gracious to me, in taking me ſo much from this world, hiding me, as it were, under the ſhadow of his wings, and enabling me to reſt and delight in Him, as the portion of my ſoul.—Praiſed be His Name, for His mercy endureth for ever.

19*th*. *Lord's-Day*. Thoſe words of *Jabez*'s prayer, (1 Chron. iv. 10.) have much refreſhed

† Viz. The Memoirs of his Life, lately printed.

me, and in them I lifted up my ſoul to God, "*O, that thou wouldſt bleſs me indeed, and enlarge my coaſt; and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldſt keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me.*" We are told God granted his requeſt; and ſo I truſt will mine be granted, thro' Jeſus Chriſt. The xxth Pſalm alſo hath comforted me much, refreſhing my mind greatly after prayer; "*The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble, the Name of the God of Jacob defend thee, ſend help from his ſanctuary and ſtrengthen thee out of Zion; grant thee thy deſires, &c*"—This ſeems an anſwer to prayer, as if the Lord would hear and grant: and bleſſed be His Name he doth hear and grant my requeſts, and helpeth and bleſſeth me, a poor ſinful worm, thro' His mercy and love in Chriſt.

22*d*. Two days paſt,—prayed that the Lord would enable me to glorify Him at my death: theſe words in Iſa. lv. 12. ſeemed as an anſwer, "*You ſhall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,* &c."—Much refreſhed and comforted by reading Pſ. xci.

February 3*d*.—Spoke a word of comfort to one in trouble, or rather, the Lord ſpoke it; not I, but the Grace of God.——Received a long letter from a zealous chriſtian, which I conſider as an anſwer to prayer, for it brought a full compliance with what I requeſted and prayed for. All glory be to God, who heareth prayer.

4*th*.—Had ſeveral Chriſtian friends with me—was troubled—afraid of company—ſaid ſome words which troubled my mind. Lord keep the door of my lips!—am not watchful enough in ſpeaking—

too

too free—too open in ſpeech. Lord keep my ſoul!—I am not ſufficient for the leaſt thing of myſelf.

15*th.*—Met with this juſt remark in Mr. *Haweis*'s Communicant, "Unhumbled minds will never ceaſe to vindicate themſelves," p. 352. —It reminded me of a ſad proof of this in —— I myſelf alſo am a proof of it.—Extremely weak and low—my heart and ſpirits fail and ſink, but the Lord is my ſupport, my ſhield, my comfort, and my portion for ever.

March 2*d. Lord's-Day.*—Much revived again in body: Lord how wonderful are thy ways; let thy will be done in me and by me. I am brought to the beginning of another month; Lord grant, that as it is thy pleaſure I ſhould ſtill live in the body, it may be to glorify Thee more and more. —Comforted in prayer—refreſhed in acting faith on Chriſt's Death and Paſſion—ſee more of the dreadful nature of ſin and ſatan's devices—the neceſſity of watching and praying always, to be kept by the Lord from ſin and ſatan.

14*th.*—Experience of much temptation—bowed down by it. Satan thruſts ſore at me—raiſeth up friends to trouble and perplex me, though they neither *deſign* nor *know* it—am ready to faint, was not the Lord to help and ſupport me—my ſpirits ſo weak that I am oppreſſed.—I ſee ſatan's malice and enmity ever beſetting me on every ſide, ſtirring up corruption, evil tempers, diſcontent, &c.——O, what need I have of a Divine Support to keep me continually!

16*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Refreſhed in commemorating the Death and Paſſion of Jeſus Chriſt.—All His members muſt, in their meaſure, be crucified with Him; dead to the world; bear reproach and contempt for His ſake. If we are true and faithful to Chriſt, and zealous for His cauſe and glory, the world will hate us. We muſt, through much tribulation, enter the kingdom of heaven.

19*th*.—Much diſtreſs theſe two days—am not guarded enough in my words—not prudent to keep my mouth as with a bridle. So much pride in men and ſelf love, that truth offends when it touches them.—Much reproved and rebuked—ſaw the hand of God in it, puniſhing me for imprudence and haſty impatience.—Much troubled, yet the Lord kept my ſoul and quieted my ſpirit, giving me to hope for good out of this evil, and wiſdom out of this folly, through the infinite Wiſdom, and ſovereign Grace of God. Lord, what is man? What am I!

24*th*.—Much refreſhed with reading the life of *George, Prince of Anhalt*, an holy man. All his delight in God—prayer his exerciſe and comfort, the way of conſolation. "Submit thyſelf "to God—pray unto Him, for He is near to "thoſe of an humble ſpirit.—God ſo loved "the world, &c.—No man ſhall pluck my "ſheep out of my hand, &c.—Come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy laden, &c."—Theſe were often his comfortable meditations.——— Read alſo, ſome of Mr. *James Bonnell's* Life;—

Heavenly

Heavenly ſweet! my ſoul was raiſed and animated in devotion, by reading his divine, elevated ſentiments on prayer.——Theſe excellent perſons were much in prayer, much with God, and received much from God; were filled with the grace and love of Chriſt. They both died at forty-ſix or forty-ſeven; and I more than fifty, yet how *far ſhort* of theſe in grace, faith, and love! ——I ſtill wander in this wilderneſs, becauſe not fitted to enter the promiſed land;—their time all well ſpent, mine unprofitably in great part.—— There is ſomething in the lives of eminently holy men, which doth ſo charm, quicken, and edify the ſoul, exhibiting the power, excellency, and glory of real religion, as is unſpeakable! Lord, grant I may glorify Thee both in life and death.

29*th*. Refreſhed in ſpirit theſe two days; more of the Divine Preſence, comforting my ſoul, ſubduing my will, and giving me more of His peace and reſt. My weak ſpirits are ſo oppreſſed with every little thing, that I am the moſt helpleſs among men; but God is my help, hope, and refuge, who will not leave or forſake me.—— Greatly edified and delighted, in reading part of Dr. *Doddridge*'s Life. A heaven-born ſoul indeed! What wiſdom, prudence, holy induſtry, to improve time, to glorify God, to edify and benefit man. —How much he lived in a ſhort time! what zeal he ſhewed; how charming his example; how greatly was the wiſdom, power, and grace of God glorified in him! How powerful is exam-

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ple! Lord, ſanctify it to me, and all who read it.

30*th. Eaſter-Day.* Aſſiſted much in prayer in the forenoon; enabled to adore, praiſe, and glorify God for the wonderful reſurrection of Jeſus Chriſt; comforted in reading the bleſſed word; quickened in faith, hope, and aſſurance of eternal life, through the bleſſed Mediator, who is entered into heaven, with his own blood, to appear in the preſence of God for us. O precious atonement! O bleſſed Advocate, who hath opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers, by a new and living way! O, draw my heart and ſoul to Thyſelf more and more!

April 6*th.* Bleſſed be God for giving me outward and inward peace this week paſt.—Much comfort in reading, particularly the Life of Mr. *John Flavel*; a choice, holy man, much favoured with the Divine Preſence, and a gracious inſtrument to promote God's glory and the good of ſouls.

9*th.*—See the great neceſſity of praying in the Spirit; what vaſt bleſſings and benefits do we loſe by wandering thoughts, want of faith, and a due ſenſe of God's Preſence in prayer! Satan is then buſy to inject vain thoughts, knowing the vaſt importance of deep attention in prayer: of this I am daily more and more ſenſible. What do we loſe by one petition in its not being offered up in faith? I look on ſuch as not ſpoken to God, and do oft-times repeat the petition, (as it were) to counteract ſatan.—Find what vaſt help and importance it is in prayer, to apprehend that

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we are in the glorious Preſence of God; that He is near us, that we are in audience * with the Mighty God, the King of Kings, the Fountain of all Bleſſedneſs and Conſolation.

14*th*.—Very weak in prayer this morning, but the Lord enableth me to truſt and reſt on Him, and not on frames.—Read the 10th chapter of Acts, which revived and quickened my ſoul, and enabled me to pray again with fervor, faith, and comfort. O what a bleſſed priviledge is prayer; what comfort and benefit, to draw near to God in prayer; what a bleſſing it is to have ground and encouragement to plead God's promiſes through the merits of Chriſt, who intercedes for us!—Only thoſe who pray much, receive much, believe much, love much, have much Grace and Peace.

25*th*. By experience I find, how myſelf and others miſtake in things ſpiritual: many things are good and right, for the matter of them, but yet are not done to God's glory, becauſe a *ſelf-will*, and *ſelf-pleaſing* is more the *motive* and ſpring of acting, than a ſingle eye to God's will and command. O, how this ſpoils all in God's ſight, who ſees the heart, and knoweth we did this or that, more to pleaſe ourſelves than Him. What we *intend* is that which the Lord regardeth; for this

* "Pray'r ardent opens heav'n, lets down a ſtream
Of glory on the conſecrated hour
Of man, in audience with the Deity.
Who worſhips the *Great God*, that inſtant joins
The Firſt in heav'n, and ſets his foot on hell." YOUNG.

this cauſe how often were the Jews reproved, and their ſervices diſowned, "*Ye did it not* unto *me*," ſaith the Lord. O what deceit is here! many think they do God's will, but 'tis only their own; for what they have a mind to, that they will do, and what they have no inclination for, that they can leave undone, having ſome ſorry excuſe or another always at hand. This proves 'tis *ſelf*, more than God, that is regarded, otherwiſe we ſhould equally have reſpect to all God's commands, though they croſſed our own wills. This ſelf-knowledge is hardly attained: "Know thyſelf" is a difficult leſſon indeed; God alone can enable us truly to know ourſelves. Lord, teach me more and more, that I do not my will but Thine.

30*th*.—Reading in "*Maſon*'s Spiritual Treaſury," was ſtruck with theſe words, "Can we look among the circle of profeſſors and not ſee the awful effects of ſlothfulneſs in the ways of God? a ſupine indolence to the cauſe of Jeſus, and careleſs indifference, as to the health of the ſoul. The ſoul unguarded, lying open to ſatan, the men of the world, carnal company, ſenſeleſs of its danger, and careleſs and ſlothful to all means of deliverance: Is not this a ſtriking, awful likeneſs? Do we not daily ſee this original? How alarming! What ſad effects of ſpiritual ſloth!" How contrary to watchfulneſs, diligence, &c.

May 4*th*. Having lived five months in my chamber, expecting *death*, yeſterday went down ſtairs, my

my weak ſpirits were much affected with this circumſtance. Lord, let me have no will but Thine!——Somewhat better this day—favoured with a meaſure of the Divine Preſence—enabled to pray and act faith on God's Love, Chriſt's Death, and to feed on Him by faith.

Viſited in the evening by ———, but O, how poor, dull, and barren I was; too much drawn to regard the creature. Lord, what a ſinful, wretched, poor creature I am, if left by Thee, not ſufficient for any good thing.——The perſons ſeemed to think me fervent, holy, &c. but Lord, thou knoweſt my heart, its corruptions, the poverty of my ſoul. O, pardon, through Chriſt's Blood, the iniquity of holy duties; O, accept me in Chriſt's righteouſneſs, let me be found in Him. How fair may we appear in man's ſight, when little of God, and much of *ſelf* prevails. This much oppreſſeth my ſoul, but Thou, O Lord, wilt hear, accept, and bleſs me for Thy Love, and for Chriſt's ſake.

7th.—Very dull and barren in prayer all the forenoon;—was animated and raiſed to a lively frame by reading Dr. *Doddridge*'s bleſſed and comfortable death. This raiſed my ſoul with love to God, at ſeeing how gracious, good, and faithful the Lord is to thoſe who believe, and glorify Him.—Charming, to ſee how the hand of the Lord appeared to ſupport and carry him through his ſickneſs and death, with peace and joy; it raiſed my hope and truſt, that the Lord will alſo bleſs and ſupport me, and enable me to finiſh my courſe with joy.

joy. I was excited to pray fervently for it, and to be made uſeful while I live. May Chriſt rule and reign in my heart; may love and zeal for Him ſwallow up every other deſire and paſſion; may God fill my heart with *his Preſence*. "The better I pray, the better I ſtudy," ſaith the Doctor.

20*th*.—Reviewed my Diary this week; obſerved the Lord's dealings with me for a year paſt; examined my ſtate, my falls, ſins, temptations, and growth in grace. Many mercies I have received; much of the Lord's goodneſs, faithfulneſs, and love I have experienced. Though I have ſtill much ſin, corruption, unbelief, &c. yet, upon the whole, I think, I can ſay I have got forward, grown more into Chriſt's likeneſs, and more dead to ſelf and to the world. This is all the Lord's work and grace, and therefore to Him alone be all the praiſe and glory; even to the Lord, who performeth all things for me, who worketh all good in me.

29*th*.—Spent ſome time in reflection on the Providence of God, leading, preſerving, and protecting me theſe thirty years. Enabled to ſee how fooliſh, vain, romantic, imprudent, and proud I have been. How wonderfully the Lord kept me from being led captive by ſatan and my own luſts; preſerving me from danger, reſtraining me from ſin, miſery, ruin, diſtreſs, yea, from Hell. Gracious, wonderful, kind, and merciful is the Lord; He is my ſhield, ſtrong tower of defence, my benefactor who beſtoweth all bleſſings upon me, even my "God, who performeth all

all things for me."—I ſee his hand hath led me theſe fifty years; his grace preventing, his goodneſs and mercy following me all the days of my life. His Truth and Faithfulneſs, Love and Grace, in Chriſt, hath preſerved and redeemed my ſoul. Praiſe, honor, thanks, and glory, be unto God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt.

June 6th.—Sorely aſſaulted with temptations, within and without—ſad experience of ſatan's power to raiſe a tempeſt in the ſoul—no ſtrength or comfort ſome hours—felt the grievous nature and power of ſin, the diſtreſs it cauſeth in the ſoul:—it ſeemed as if ſatan had aſſaulted me with all his power, but the Lord was my *hope* and *ſtay*. I prayed again and again, and the Lord heard my prayer, and ſent ſweet peace into my ſoul in the afternoon.

15th. Lord's-Day.—More low and weak than for ſome time—enabled to pray with comfort, and found reſt and peace to my ſoul in God. Comforted and charmed with reading the late Mr. *Davies*'s ſermons. How alarming, zealous, and ſtriking; againſt coldneſs, lukewarmneſs in religion; againſt worldly vanities and neglect of the ſoul!——Alone all day; yet not alone, for my God is with me, and comforteth me, tho' no man careth for me.

20th.—Finiſhed reading Mr. *Rutherford*'s letters, who was ſilenced and baniſhed for oppoſing errors and corruptions in the church of Scotland. This hath confirmed my faith, in God's bleſſing all thoſe who boldly teſtify for his truth and glory,

againſt all oppoſers. In exile he was ſo bleſſed, ſo filled with peace, love, joy, and delight, beyond all he ever experienced before—Had ſuch views of Chriſt, was ſo ſupported, that (as he ſaid) he enjoyed an hundred fold in this life with perſecutions; ſo fervent and zealous was he to ſtir up and awaken all to faith, love, and zeal for Chriſt and His glory, as greatly charmed and animated me! —— To the people of his charge he writes, "to beware leſt their faith be preſumption only, to ſee what fruit it bears.:— Many are ſelf-deceived,—have a rotten foundation; ſelf, and not Chriſt. Something like converſion, yet not converſion, is moſt dangerous. Many go far, reform many things; can ſhed tears like *Eſau*; ſuffer for truth as *Judas*; wiſh and deſire to be righteous (at leaſt to die their death) as *Balaam*; profeſs and fight for the Lord, as *Saul*; deſire the ſaints to pray for them, as *Pharaoh* and *Simon Magus*; propheſy and preach of Chriſt; put away groſs ſins like *Jehu*; hear God's word, and do many things, as *Herod*; partake of the Holy Ghoſt—taſte the good word of God—feel the powers of the world to come—ſeek to be ſaved—go on long in God's ways—appear ſound and excellent to moſt, and yet be counterfeit metal, ſilvered braſs, no ſound converſion, no real faith, no real union with Chriſt: O beware! (ſaith) he how many do and are all this, yet go to hell!"

To noble earls, lords and ladies, he writes, exhorting them "to appear boldly for Chriſt and His

His cauſe, to hazard all for His glory: What are earldoms, lordſhips, great eſtates, favor of kings, and all that *clay-god*, this world can give, compared with the eternal riches and glories of Chriſt's kingdom!—How ſoon will all things below vaniſh and be no more! How will they tremble when their eye-ſtrings break, and their ſouls are going into eternity! What will all clay-gods and goods avail then? O, take heed leſt a multitude of idols ſtand between God and the ſoul! We cry out of the devil, but O, the great devil is within! Self, that houſe-devil, that lieth in our boſom, this grand idol, which killeth and devoureth all. What ſnared David? Self-luſt.—Peter, to deny Chriſt? Self-love.—Demas, to leave the goſpel?—Judas, to ſell Chriſt? Love of the world, Self-love. O, if every one would put away ſelf-love, ſelf-pleaſing, ſelf-will, ſelf-eaſe, ſelf-credit, ſelf-intereſt, ſelf-ſloth, ſelf-luſt, ſelf-eſteem, ſelf-ſeeking, ſelf-twenty, nay, an hundred things. O, if theſe ſelf-idols, houſe-devils were caſt out, there might be room for Chriſt; but my own will, my own luſt, own pleaſure, my own ſelf, in an hundred forms, are curſed idols, ſelf-devils, which keep out ſelf-denial, caſt out Chriſt, blind the mind, ruin the ſoul, and lead to hell!"

July 13*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Much comforted and aſſiſted in prayer—had much of the Divine Preſence—ſweetly drawn to God in ſecret prayer—enabled to ſpend three hours in ſecret prayer, an hour each time, beſides ſhorter opportunities—

enabled to exerciſe faith on Chriſt's death, paſſion, atonement, and God's redeeming love. Towards evening was drawn to pray with much fervency and love; greatly deſiring to be with Chriſt, groaned to be diſſolved. This was a ſweet day of prayer. Tho' I am cut off from ordinances, yet the Lord bleſſeth me with the grace of ordinances; viſiting my ſoul with his Preſence, teaching and refreſhing me with *his word* and Grace. Glory, thanks, and praiſe, be to Father, Son, and Spirit.

Auguſt 2.—Laſt week a week, of trouble and diſtreſs. A letter diſcovered ſecret malice, deceitful enemies, watching to do me evil.—Much reproach, and reproof:—my ſoul is among lions. —My ſoul waiteth upon God; to Him I look for help, comfort, and peace; the Lord deliver me and ſanctify theſe croſſes, and make them work together for good, and the ſubduing all ſin in me.

7th. Went to *H*———, where for many years I had ſpent ſome moſt ſweet days in ſilent woods and ſhades, reading and meditating on the glorious works of God in Providence and Grace: but now thoſe friends are dead who uſed to entertain me. I went and ſpent a few hours reflecting on the pleaſant time I had ſpent there, viewing the works of God. 'Twas now awful and ſolemn to think, my friends were dead, and I myſelf not likely to continue long; that I ſhould ſee theſe waters, fields, and woods no more. I ſat alone, muſing in penſive, yet pleaſing ſolitude; taking a farewell of thoſe ſweet ſcenes,

where

where I had enjoyed the preſence of God, bidding the laſt adieu in pleaſing melancholy.

31*ſt. Lord's-Day.* My ſabbaths are become quite deſolate; none come near me to read, pray, or converſe. My ſoul is full of heavineſs —longs greatly for the Preſence of Chriſt. I am cut off from the ordinances of God.——Cried unto the Lord to take me out of this wilderneſs-ſtate, that I might join angels and ſaints above, to praiſe and adore God and the Lamb, for ever and ever. O, when ſhall it once be!——"I am like a pelican in the wilderneſs, and an owl in the deſert." I ſit alone all day on the houſe top.

September 7th. Lord's-Day.—Extremely dull and heavy, knew not how to pray; rather ſpoke than prayed: afterwards was ſo quickened and revived with reading God's word and promiſes, that I was enabled to pray with much faith and power: God's word refreſhed and quickened me indeed.——Quite alone all day; the Lord is all my company, comfort, and ſupport; I am deſolate and like one dead, none careth for me, but God alone, whoſe loving-kindneſs is better than life.

14*th. Lord's-Day.*—As I ſeemed ſtronger this morning both in body and mind, and having a longing deſire after Chriſt and His ordinances; I attempted to creep to church to hold communion with Chriſt in the holy Sacrament, hoping the Lord would meet and bleſs me in it. I went, and was refreſhed, but not with that ſenſible Preſence of God's Love, which I have ſometimes

been bleſſed with, yet I believe I ſought not the Lord in vain.

26*th*.—Received a letter, which ſhewed me the Lord had graciouſly own'd and bleſſed my book and other papers, to the comfort of ſome; and hinted to me to beware of ſpiritual pride, &c. This caution was ſanctified, I was enabled to ſee how ſelf and the deſire of man's eſteem and praiſe had ſtolen upon me in diſguiſe; this cauſed me to reflect that the contempt and neglect of many towards me was from the Lord, for ſelf-ſeeking, &c. O, ſelf, O curſed pride, thou robbeſt God to ſet up thyſelf. Lord, keep me!—Was enabled to praiſe and thank God for this diſcovery as a great mercy to me.

29*th*. — Much inſtructed and comforted by reading Biſhop *Hall*'s Diſcourſe, called "Heaven upon Earth," and his "Art and Method of Divine Meditation;" moſt ſweet, divine, and uſeful! What heavenly wiſdom, grace, and marvellous ſweetneſs are found in his works! They are a treaſure to thoſe who are taught of God to reliſh heavenly things.——Benefited by his ſhewing the bleſſed wiſdom and peace which flow from being truly reſigned to God's Will in all things.——Viſited by Mr. ———, ſaw a bleſſed change in him; Lord, make it abiding. It was a bleſſed and comfortable meeting. Thro' the Grace of God he ſeemed full of the Divine Preſence in ſpeech and prayer. Lord, this I have prayed and longed for, O, may it continue and increaſe. Praiſe and glory to God for it.

October

October 8th.—Read *Joseph Taylor's* Experience, who preached many years and thought himself a converted man, yet was not at that time, as he afterwards found. Something like conversion, yet not real conversion seems the most dangerous state. Many split on this rock; their foundation is false, grounded on terrors of conscience, sorrow for sin, (tho' not from right apprehensions of its nature) instead of regeneration and real union with Christ. His great error was, not coming poor, blind, and naked to Christ; but thought to *prepare himself* as the *condition* of salvation. Lord keep us.

10th. These two days, reading over all my Diary for near three years past, to see the Lord's dealings and the state of my soul: great have been the Lord's mercies, exceeding great: Many have been my falls, sinful, selfish, and ungrateful.—Seem not to have been truly humbled, nor resigned to the Will of God as I ought;—too much self-will, peevishness, and pride.—Seem not to have had such manifestations of God's Love in Christ to my soul for a year or two past, as before. This troubleth me; desiring to know whether the Lord withdraws His Presence because of sin, or to teach me to live more by faith.

November 2d. Lord's-Day. Last week, temptations, sore and great, seemed to multiply—sometimes ready to faint—satan stirs up strife and evil against me continually—the Lord alone is my help, all my hope and comfort arise from his

his Spirit and Covenant-promiſes. He will ſave and deliver in due time.

4*th*.—Yeſterday was refreſhed and comforted by hearing that ſeveral had been edified and benefited by my little book. Lord, Thou haſt bleſſed it, and made it uſeful, unto Thee alone be the glory. Wilt Thou, O Lord, bring it forth again and bleſs it more and more? Lord, I ſee thy hand, 'tis Thou haſt uſed this poor mite, and ſanctified it to Thy people. O thanks be to thy wonderous Name, for permitting thy poor duſt, to own, confeſs, and ſpeak a word for Chriſt in this tract. Unto Thee be praiſe.

11*th*. Yeſterday, ſore troubled at ſpeaking ſome words of one, which, though *true*, I had no *occaſion* to ſpeak. O, this was *pride*, *ſelf*, *ſin*; my ſoul is grieved. I fled to the precious blood of Chriſt. Lord, what am I? A maſs of ſin. Lord, keep my heart, my ſoul, and the door of my lips.

30*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Still more weak; the Lord alone is all my hope and peace. In the bleſſed covenant of grace and everlaſting love, is all my conſolation: though my heart and fleſh faileth, yet my inward man ſeems to be renewed daily. O, how helpleſs and comfortleſs am I in myſelf, but how great is my hope and peace in the Lord. O, what a gift is Chriſt! what a bleſſed way of Salvation is provided through Him! I, through rich mercy, ſee more and more of the glory of God in Chriſt—the bleſſedneſs of coming to the throne

throne of Grace, through the merits of his blood and powerful interceſſion. This is my peace.

December 7th. Lord's-Day.—Scarce power to pray—had not ſtrength to uſe my voice, but prayed in ſilence—favored in a meaſure with the Peace and Preſence of God—thought much of dying, and how I ſhould glorify God in my death. Nothing lay ſo much on my mind, or perplexed me ſo much, as fearing leſt my Experience ſhould not be publiſhed according to my deſire; leſt due care ſhould not be taken to ſpread it and make it uſeful; or any part of it ſhould be ſuppreſt. For this I cried unto God day and night, to ſanctify and make it uſeful and ſpread it greatly.

14*th. Lord's-Day.* This day, many of God's people prayed for me. The Lord heard their prayer; my pains were abated; my ſoul was refreſhed and comforted, ſo that in the evening I was enabled to ſpeak a word of the Lord's goodneſs and grace, and to pray a few minutes with ſome friends in faith and comfort. Truly the Lord is a God hearing prayer,—my ſtrength, hope, and refuge in trouble.

21*ſt. Lord's-Day.* Theſe four days, ſore temptations and diſtreſs;—ſatan raiſed ſtrife and contentions—bowed down with theſe and my bodily afflictions—much pain—much trouble, yet the Lord enableth me to hope, truſt, and believe, that He will be with me in trouble—and deliver me out of all my diſtreſs, and bring me to His heavenly kingdom.——Viſited by ſome friends,

to

to whom I was enabled to ſpeak of the things of Chriſt, and to pray with them in faith. Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

January 1ſt. 1767. The Lord hath carried me through another year, and brought me to the beginning of this: many and great have been the Lord's mercies to me, both in providence and grace. Now I am waiting to be diſſolved, in great bodily pains, but in the Lord I have peace; hoping my pilgrimage is almoſt at an end, and that the Lord will ſupport and carry me through this Jordan to the promiſed land. I reſt in hope to ſee the ſalvation of God, to carry me through from all this my ſin and miſery, to life, peace, and glory.

11*th. Lord's-Day.*—Like a ſhip entering the haven and driven out again to ſea, ſo am I.—Expected I had been near the land of reſt, but ſeem now, for my ſins, to be driven back into the wilderneſs or into the boiſterous deep again. My pains and weakneſs abated—life and appetite returned: Lord, make me content and reſigned—ſanctify this providence—do not remember my ſins. O, if I live, let it be to glorify Thee, and not as a puniſhment for my diſcontent and impatience. The Lord enableth me to hope all ſhall work for good.

22*d.* Sore and great temptations theſe many days, bowing down my ſoul with great diſtreſs. Satan beſetteth me on every ſide, ſtirs up impatience, peeviſhneſs, &c. &c.—the devil rageth

and

and aſſaulteth me more and more. I am ready to faint ſometimes; was it not for the Covenant of Free-grace, and Salvation in Chriſt, I ſhould utterly fall: but this is well ordered in all things and ſure, though my houſe is not as I could wiſh. "Though I fall I ſhall riſe, let me bear the indignation of the Lord." The words of Micah, vii. 7, 8, 9, 10. are exactly ſuitable to my ſtate. Lord redeem me from all ſin and miſery, and bring me to reſt and peace.

25*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Some reſpite from temptation—more comfort in the Lord, who ſeems to rebuke ſatan—the Lord will not contend for ever. —He remembereth we are but duſt,—my ſoul waiteth upon God, who is all my ſalvation, hope, comfort, refuge, and ſtrength.

February 1*ſt*. *Lord's-Day*. "Tho' the Lord ſends trouble he will have compaſſion." This word is fulfilled to me.—Have been kept in peace this laſt week, defended from ſatan's wiles and aſſaults. The Lord Jeſus is the "Prince of Peace." "In me ye ſhall have peace." 'Tis the Lord alone who giveth me any peace, inward or outward. 'Tis the Lord who defendeth me as with a ſhield, from the devil, the world, and ſin.——This day much comforted in reading the bleſſed word of God—meditating upon His infinite love in Chriſt, &c.—Enabled to pray with ſome faith and comfort. For theſe, and all mercies, thanks, praiſe, and glory, be unto the bleſſed triune God. Amen.

22*d*. *Lord's-Day*. — Dull and heavy in the morning: on attempting the duty, was enabled to pray.—Laſt night, ſaw one, who through temptation lived without ſecret prayer. Satan ſo aſſaulted him when he attempted to pray, as to drive him from the duty, by which he was as dead; ſo weak in knowledge, faith, &c.—Spoke much to him to perſiſt in prayer, to cry unto God for help, to break through the temptation; prayed with him and for him. O Lord, hear, anſwer, and bleſs, without which all is in vain.

March 2*d*.—Reproved, edified, and delighted by reading of one who, under great poverty and contempt, had ſuch firm dependance on the goodneſs of God.—Such a contented ſpirit, and ſuch an humble, humane heart; that I ſaw in him a ray of the Divine Love and Goodneſs, which much affected me, and engaged me to pray to have the ſame ſpirit. When he had but one ſhilling, he parted with it to relieve one in diſtreſs: in a few days the Lord abundantly recompenſed him. All glory be to Thee, O Lord.

7*th*.—An unprofitable week:—wrote but one letter on the things of God—had no opportunity to ſpeak, write, or do any thing to promote God's glory and praiſe, except by praying for the church of Chriſt. All the deſire of my ſoul is to glorify God.

10*th*. A day of trouble and diſtreſs—fear I have been more under the power of my own ſpirit than I was aware of. O, how difficult it is to keep to the rule of duty in God's way. Many things

ſeem

ſeem much for God's glory, when yet perhaps our own will, our own ſpirit directed and led to them, more than the Spirit and Will of God.—Saw great reaſon to pray to be delivered from my own will, ſpirit, and natural temper: this often deceives, and as often troubleth me. O this Self! what an enemy to the ſoul, interpoſing between it and God:—how does it bias the judgment, blind the underſtanding! Lord, keep me always; leave me not to myſelf.

April 12*th. Lord's-Day.*—Had a ſweet meeting for prayer; the Lord enabled me to pray with enlargement and fervency; I was ſpent with it, but it is bleſſed being ſpent in God's ſervice.—Sung an hymn—melted into tears of love and joy at hearing the glories, grace, and love of Chriſt thus celebrated. O, when ſhall I ſing in the heights of Zion? My ſoul rejoiced at the hope thereof.

26*th. Lord's-Day.*—Much refreſhed and quickened by reading 2 Sam. xxiii. David's Song. "*I will love Thee, O Lord, &c.*" God's love manifeſted to our hearts, is that which enables us to love Him: this led me to view God's redeeming love in Chriſt's incarnation, death, and paſſion.——Had a ſweet melting ſenſe of Chriſt's merits, love, and grace in His death. O my God! all my freſh ſprings of comfort and grace are in Thee! Bleſſed be God in Chriſt.

June 7*th. Lord's-Day.*—Dull, heavy, very weak and low—went down ſtairs, after keeping my chamber ſix months:—little expected to go

down again, but God's ways are far above our's. Lord grant I may have no will but thine.—Viſited in the evening by ſome friends—not much of the Divine Preſence, yet prayed as the Lord enabled me. Lord, help and keep me.

9*th*.—Tho' ſo much of the Divine Goodneſs yeſterday, yet my beſetting ſin aſſaulted me much. —Sorely grieved;—melted this morning much, under a deep ſenſe of my ſinful corruptions in the midſt of God's mercies and great goodneſs towards me—amazed at the long-ſuffering of God and his patience in not caſting me off for my ſins; 'tis becauſe his mercy endureth for ever! Great are thy mercies, O Lord, bleſſed be Thou, O God, who canſt juſtify the ungodly. O what a gift is Chriſt! O, what covenant mercies are in Chriſt!

13*th*—Many diſappointments this week;—experienced a freſh inſtance of unkindneſs, contempt, and falſehood, for my faithful diligence. O, put not your truſt in man; no help or truth in him.—Little comfort—a barren week—every hope fails but that of God.

20*th*. I deſire to ſee the hand of God in every mercy and kind providence, as covenant mercies in Chriſt; it is this which makes them ſo ſweet and comfortable. This day the Lord granted my prayer, in delivering me out of the hands of ———. The Lord helped when I had no helper, and ſaved me from them who would ſwallow me up. I evidently ſee the Lord's goodneſs towards me herein. I had prayed for this;

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the Lord enabled me to truſt in Him, and he delivered me. "Praiſe the Lord, O my ſoul, and forget not all His benefits."

22*d*. This morning ſo weak and helpleſs, that I knew not how to pray;—thought to have been ſhort, but was aſſiſted to pray with comfort, enlargement, and liberty, with much of the Divine Preſence. Great are thy mercies, O Lord, and great is thy power and love. When I am weak, then am I ſtrong. Refreſhed greatly in reading God's word; melted much with thoſe words in Judges, vi. 14. "*The Lord looked on him, and ſaid, go in this thy might, and thou ſhalt ſave Iſrael from the Midianites: have not I ſent thee?*"——Tho' greatly raiſed, refreſhed, and comforted, yet I cannot comprehend the import of this promiſe, with reſpect unto myſelf, or my caſe in any particular manner*: but mine eyes look towards the Lord to teach me.

July 5th. Arrived ſafely at this place—kindly received—enabled to go through this journey in peace; tho' weak and no reſt all day, yet the Lord aſſiſted me to ſpeak to ſeveral people of the

 glory,

* It may not be amiſs, nor, to the ſerious Reader, unacceptable, to remark here, That about a fortnight after this, our Author went into the Country (agreeable to an invitation he had received) and continued ſome weeks; the effect of which was, through the bleſſing of God, much good to many in a way of ſpiritual edification. The *enemies* he had to encounter, his own extreme *weakneſs*, and the bleſſed *ſucceſs* notwithſtanding, through the *power* of God, ſeem to bear no ſmall *reſemblance*, by way of *analogy*, between the caſe of *Gideon*, above-mentioned, and his own.

The Editor wiſhes the Reader to keep in mind the remarks made in the preface, towards the cloſe.

glory, grace, and love of God in Chriſt.—Sweetly melted in ſinging hymns of praiſe—filled with the Divine Preſence—enabled to pray with faith, attention, and fervor. Though ſo weak and low, and more than twenty perſons preſent, and all ſtrangers to me, yet I never experienced more, or ſo much of God's Preſence and ſupport, keeping me from confuſion and ſelf-ſeeking. Surely this is of God's rich mercy and grace, bleſſing and ſupporting a poor weak worm: this is a ſweet anſwer to prayer!—"Praiſe the Lord, O my ſoul, and forget not all His benefits."

12*th. Lord's-Day.* Weak and low, yet aſſiſted to pray.——Afternoon, many perſons came to converſe and pray;—extremely low in ſpirits; made more ſo by ſeveral wicked rich men, who came to mock, or interrupt, obſerve, or ridicule. This bowed me quite down—ready to faint—never more unfit to ſpeak or pray; yet ſurely the Lord fulfilled His word to me, and heard my ſupplication for His Help and Preſence: and bleſſed be the Lord, He helped me and kept me that I was not aſhamed or confounded. The Lord enabled me to pray with fervency and attention, though more than thirty perſons were preſent; ſurely this was the Lord's goodneſs, who glorified His ſtrength in my great weakneſs.

We ſung, and a ſermon was read, after which I ſpoke of the vital power of religion, and the means to preſerve and grow in faith and every grace, and to glorify God in all things. The

people

people ſeemed attentive. Another ſermon was read, after which I prayed again, and the people affectionately diſperſed. All glory be to Thee, O Lord. O, let thy Spirit bleſs and ſanctify all to thy glory and praiſe.

14*th and* 15*th*. Much company, ſpoke much, and prayed alſo with them.—Heard of more perſecution and malice of ſatan and his inſtruments againſt me—had word ſent me, not to go to ſpend a week where I had been invited, becauſe they feared reproach, and to raiſe the reſentment of the wicked. O, my God, if men refuſe me becauſe of thy cauſe and truth, Thou wilt bleſs me the more. My ſoul waiteth to ſee the glory of the Lord.

17*th*.—Viſited Mr. ———, ſpoke much of the power of godlineſs—they aſked me to pray, which the Lord enabled me to do with ſome attention and fervency—preſſed the duty of prayer much. O Lord, be pleaſed to apply and ſanctify it to thy glory.——Wrote much theſe two days.—Heard more of the enmity of wicked men againſt me. Lord, keep me, bleſs, and uſe me to thy glory.

19*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Roſe early—after ſhort prayer*, joined with ſome friends who ſtayed all night—ſung hymns and then joined in prayer—ſome more came in—ſung again—then prayed

* That is, ſhorter than uſual, though perhaps longer than many Chriſtians uſe in their ſecret devotions. Thoſe who know, can inform the reader that our Author ſeldom ſpent leſs, and often more, than an hour in ſecret prayer and praiſe every morning.

again: it was a moſt ſweet morning's exerciſe. much of the Lord's Preſence.——In the evening many came to the ſociety—had not ſo much of the Lord's Preſence as I wiſhed—not ſo much aſſiſted in prayer at firſt—was enabled to ſpeak of rich free grace and redeeming love: after reading, ſung, and then prayed with more fervor and aſſiſtance, but wanted time.—Not ſatisfied—not that ſpirit of love, zeal, and diligence I could wiſh—parted in low ſpirits. Lord, pardon all amiſs. The Lord be praiſed for every help.

26*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Much in prayer in the morning and forenoon. In the evening, near fifty perſons met;—was enabled to ſpeak much to them of the vaſt importance of ſalvation, of the vanity of life, and the awfulneſs of eternity, but had not that enlargement in prayer that I wiſhed; not ſo much of the Divine Preſence, yet, bleſſed be God, for ſupporting me and helping me, that I was not confounded or aſhamed. —Ended with comfort—had more ſtrength when I had done than at the beginning. Bleſſed be God.

Auguſt 2*d*. *Lord's-Day*.—Was enabled to pray much in the morning and forenoon, and to plead in prayer for a Divine Support, for I feared that I ſhould not glorify my God and Saviour as I wiſh'd. Many people came; I prayed, and ſpoke to them of the power and neceſſity of faith, of regeneration, and the impoſſibility of being ſaved without this great change.—Spoke of the neceſſity of prayer, and exhorted them to be valiant for God

and

and his truth; thankful for being ſupported, in a meaſure.—Enabled to praiſe God, who kept me from being aſhamed or confounded, according to his bleſſed promiſe, on which I truſted.

3*d*.—Roſe early this morning, prayed with —. In the afternoon parted with praying for a bleſſing on each other.—Had a pleaſant journey; was brought home in peace and ſafety, through the good hand of my God upon me, who was with me, kept, ſupported, and helped me according to his holy promiſe, in which he enabled me to truſt. My wife and houſe in peace alſo. O, bleſſed are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, and whoſe hope is in the Lord their God, who keepeth promiſe for ever. Praiſe the Lord O my ſoul.

4*th*.—Comforted by a letter, which informed me, that the Lord had bleſſed a poor teſtimony of mine for his truth. Not unto me, O Lord, but unto Thee alone be all thanks and praiſe.—Comforted alſo that I was in peace at my habitation.

16*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Viſited by many chriſtian friends, [*viz*. in the evening] bleſſed with the Divine Preſence—ſung praiſes to God and the Lamb—enabled to pray with faith, fervor, and attention—ſupported to ſpeak a word of faith and comfort—parted with much love and reſpect—it was a comfortable meeting. Bleſſed be God for his Grace and Preſence.

17*th*.—Arrived at this place in peace and ſafety, through the bleſſing and protection of God.

Was

—Was kindly received; prayed, and gave thanks to God.

25*th*.—Rode to *Say—m* and *Hoxon*—ſaw the ſeat of lord *Mainard*—a ſweet place; fine park, groves, wilderneſs, waters, &c. yet theſe cannot content the human mind, or ſatisfy the ſoul; without the peace and preſence of God, all is empty, poor, comfortleſs. In the church—ſaw a fine monument of the *Mainards*, on a tomb a fine marble ſtatue, in a robe, reſting on an urn, over a vault in a neat chapel.——Death is the end of all human greatneſs; death, worms, and duſt the end of all men. Vanity of vanities, all is vanity!

27*th*.—Rode to ——, ſaw the caſtle, the ancient palace of —; four grand towers in the front, battlements and gates like city-gates; a deep moat and draw-bridge, ſolemn and venerable.—Entering the court, ruins and deſolation appeared. The curſe of God on a wicked family often makes their houſes to become a dunghill! This was a moſt wicked family; they are rooted out, and their dwelling become a ruin. O the vanity of all human grandeur, the end of curſed pride. Where are theſe princes now? Where their ſtate and glory? All forgotten like a dream, a tale that is told; ſuch is all this world can give. O, how bleſſed are all thoſe, and only thoſe, who fear and love the Lord, who believe in and love Jeſus Chriſt. Such are bleſſed for ever, "ſhall be had in everlaſting remembrance; ſhall ſhine as the ſun in the kingdom of their Father."

Sep-

September 8th. In the evening—ſaw two ſtrangers, both ignorant of God, of Chriſt, and themſelves, yet knew it not; but one of them (eſpecially) ſo full of ſomething which left no room for Chriſt; ſo blind, yet ſuppoſed they ſaw; ignorant and void of faith, yet thought they believed, "always did believe," one of them ſaid.—Vexed to ſee it—endeavoured to convince them of ſin, unbelief, &c. but they ſeemed not to underſtand.—Spoke much of God's word and way of ſalvation by grace, but it ſeemed as if ſpoken to the ſtones; yet Thou, O Lord, canſt ſanctify and fix it on the heart.—Prayed with them and for them. O Lord, hear and grant.

14*th.*—Received a parcel of letters laſt night—read them after morning devotions—ſweetly refreſhed and melted into tears of love and gratitude at ſeeing the grace, love, faithfulneſs, and goodneſs of the Lord in his mercy beſtowed on T. C—ll, &c. to whoſe ſpiritual good the Lord uſed me a poor, weak, vile worm. Not unto me, O Lord, but unto Thy Name alone, be all praiſe and glory. Enabled to praiſe and give thanks to my God and Saviour, who alone doth wonderous things.

15*th.* *and* 16*th.*—Refreſhed and comforted with Jer. xxxix. 17, 18. where the Lord promiſeth to defend and deliver thoſe who truſt in Him.—The Lord hath enabled me to truſt in Him, and I am not confounded. Some ſins which I hoped were ſubdued, aſſaulted me again: Lord what is man! O, how bleſſed a thing it is that in Chriſt is complete

complete ſalvation: all of free-grace and love; that the covenant is ſure and well ordered in all things. Bleſſed and praiſed be God for Jeſus Chriſt.

22*d*. Though not ſo fervent in prayer, nor ſo much of the Preſence of God as I wiſh, yet have a prevailing aſſurance of being heard when I pray; and the Lord doth ſhew me that he is a God hearing prayer, by granting my petitions and fulfilling his own word.

October 11*th*. *Lord's-Day*.—Much diſturbed in the morning by friends interrupting my private devotions. I do not like viſits in the morning; I chooſe rather to be alone with my God, to pour out all my heart and tell him all my troubles, ſins, and wants; to praiſe, thank, and glorify my Saviour for particular mercies and bleſſings. There are ſeaſons when the company of the deareſt friend is unſeaſonable. Several friends in the evening—enabled to ſpeak of the things of Chriſt, and to pray with ſome degree of fervency, but not that power of faith, or ſenſe of the Divine Preſence I deſired. Bleſſed be God for any, and for every mercy.

24*th*. Much company this day—endeavoured to ſpeak a word to awaken a poor ſinner—looked up to the Lord to put a word in my mouth, which he would apply to her heart;—Spoke much, and prayed the Lord to bleſs.

25*th*. *Lord's-Day*. In the morning enabled to pray with a meaſure of the Divine Preſence. Prevented praying in the forenoon by one viſiting

ſiting me—vexed at it. Aſked him to pray. How unſeaſonable is company when the ſoul wants to wait upon God, longing to draw near to Him. In the evening, ſome friends to ſing and pray—tried to ſpeak a word of the things of Chriſt, but was dry, poor, &c. yet enabled to pray with ſome enlargement. Afterwards ſaid things which had been better unſaid. O Lord, how weak and ſinful am I! my mouth and tongue not well governed.

November 8th.—Much affected with the death of Dr. *Wood*. I have loſt a friend, but am more troubled for Zion.—Wrote ſome verſes to his memory†.

11. Having

† Which, tho' we cannot preſume to applaud for their poetry, yet ſhall take the liberty to tranſcribe them, for the ſake of thoſe who can reliſh piety better than judge of poetry: and they do moreover, undoubtedly exhibit a ſtriking evidence of the high eſteem and unfeigned affection which he bore to that truly worthy man.—I have, however, thought proper to omit ſome lines, which to the reader would ſeem a perfect tautology, though the author's tender paſſions might repeat the ſame things with pious and flowing affections,—I have likewiſe altered ſome few expreſſions (tho' kept invariably to the ſenſe) that they might run a little ſmoother. They are as follow:

On the Death of the Rev. Dr. Wood.

" O Sion mourn, and weep, thy loſs deplore;
" Let tears run down, thy Paſtor is no more.
" Let Sion's ways, and Sion's children mourn;
" Bedew with tears thy worthy Paſtor's urn.
" The pious, good, humane, and ſound Divine,
" Moſt ſweetly taught to make the Saviour ſhine.
" O, when he Chriſt's rich glories bright diſplays,
" My raviſh'd ſoul was fill'd with love and praiſe.

" To

11*th*. Having been ſore oppreſſed ſome days with ſeveral croſſes, reproaches, and troubles. I prayed much to be reſigned; to be patient, humble, and willing to be whatever the Lord pleaſe. Yet finding my will and ſpirit not ſubdued, this day looking on an old book, I read to the following purpoſe, "That every particular croſs and trouble comes by the wiſdom of God; nothing by chance; and that true and real mortification is, when we willingly receive evils, injuries, troubles, and bear them patiently from others."—This was made uſeful, in ſhewing me that I wanted mortification of ſpirit and ſubmiſſion of will; and I was led to ſee the bleſſed peaceful ſtate of the ſoul when thus truly ſubdued and reſigned, and at the ſame time I ſeemed to have power

"To hear him ſound the Saviour's grace and love,
"And pow'r to ſave, hath rais'd my ſoul above;
"Far beyond reaſon's height, or power of ſenſe,
"To unſeen things, with cleareſt evidence.
"But ah! he's gone; no more ſhall I behold,
"Or hear his tongue thoſe heav'nly truths unfold
"Of Chriſt, the Saviour, Prophet, Prieſt, and King.
"No more, his voice, thoſe wond'rous glories ſing!
"I've loſt a friend, kind, ſteady, and ſincere;
"Mourn, mourn my ſoul, let fall the grateful tear.
"But more for Sion's loſs I'd greatly mourn;
"Alas, alas, thy heavenly guide is gone!
"Behold how Sion mourns: O Sion's King
"A faithful watchman, to her comfort, bring:
"Divinely taught, with unction from above,
"To preach the riches of Redeeming Love.
"Build up thy church, now mourning in diſtreſs,
"And lead her ſons to perfect joy and peace."

power given me, to bear injuries and reproach from others. For this I was enabled to praiſe and give thanks to the Lord, who ſeems to have delivered my ſoul.

December 25th. Yeſterday came up ſtairs for the winter—prayed the Lord to ſanctify and bleſs my retirement—meditated on the great ſalvation through the incarnation of Jeſus Chriſt—found an hindrance in prayer—looked to the Lord to help and aſſiſt me.—Enlarged this forenoon in prayer and thankſgiving, for Chriſt's coming into the fleſh.—Attempted to ſpeak in the evening to ſome friends of the glorious myſtery of the incarnation of Chriſt, and the amazing grace and infinite love of God diſplayed in man's redemption. Bleſſed be God for Jeſus Chriſt.

31ſt. In the Evening gave thanks and praiſe to the Lord, for all his mercies the paſt year.—Many and great are the mercies of the Lord, both ſpiritual and temporal. The Lord hath ſhewn me great and marvellous things, and done great things for me—hath ſupported me under all my weakneſſes, and enabled me to ſpeak of Chriſt at *T——m*, and to ſome alſo who viſited me. In particular, I am affected with the Lord's goodneſs, in teaching and working on the hearts of three youths, whom he was pleaſed to bring to the knowledge of ſalvation by grace, and to uſe me (a poor, weak creature) as an inſtrument therein; at this my ſoul is deeply affected. Not unto me, O Lord, but unto thy great and holy

Name alone, be all honour, glory, love, and praiſe.

January 1ſt, 1768. At firſt riſing enabled to give thanks and praiſe to the Lord for his manifold mercies laſt year—to adore and worſhip the holy and glorious triune God, for all his goodneſs, love, grace, and benefits beſtowed upon me. —Offered myſelf, body, and ſoul to the Lord, to be wholly his, and devoted to his ſervice—gave up myſelf to Chriſt, and to God the Father, in him to be kept, ſanctified, and uſed to his glory; praying, that if the Lord ſhall pleaſe to continue my life, it may be devoted entirely to glorify him: that I may be ſo bleſſed and kept by the Spirit of Jeſus, that living or dying I may glorify God.—Praying the Lord to take all things concerning me, into His hand, and to direct all things for my good; to guide me, teach, and inſtruct me by His Spirit to know and do His will; to be ſubdued, reſigned, and uſed to God's glory, that Chriſt may live and reign in me, and be *All in all.* "The Lord fulfil all my petitions!"

2*d*.—Wrote much this week; the Lord ſupporteth me and giveth me ſtrength according to my day.—Much refreſhed in the morning from theſe words, "As the bridegroom rejoiceth over his bride, ſo ſhall thy God rejoice over thee."

3*d*. Sadly interrupted in morning prayer—ſaw how impoſſible it is to be much with God if much company conſtantly; and how ſatan ſeeks to prevent

prevent prayer, by manifold ways; yea, and that even good diſcourſe and chriſtian friends oft-times prevent that moſt profitable exerciſe.—My ſoul longed to be alone with God;—was obliged to catch at (and as it were to ſnatch) little occaſions of being alone for private prayer.—In the evening much company—prayed, ſung, and then ſpoke of the myſtery of Chriſt in the fleſh;—refreſhed and quickened by it, and enabled to pray with much fervor. Bleſſed be God.

17*th. Lord's-Day.*—So weak and relapſed for ſome days, as if drawing to my end.—Much comforted and refreſhed this morning after prayer, by reflecting on Iſa. liv. "*Thou ſhalt not be aſhamed nor confounded—my kindneſs ſhall not depart from thee, nor the covenant of my peace be removed, ſaith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee, &c.*"

30*th.* An unprofitable week—wrote nothing—ſaid nor did any thing to glorify God—ſhut up quite alone—not a word ſpoke for Chriſt—dry and deſerted alſo in ſpirit—an emptineſs of ſoul—want of the Preſence and Love of God, which alone can fill and comfort me. Lord, ſhew me why Thou contendeſt with me, and return and ſanctify my ſoul. All my ſprings of conſolation are in Thee.

February 17*th.* This morning much oppreſſed and tempted—unreſigned to the Divine Will—unwilling to bear the croſs. O, how much ſin is in me! So oppreſſed with it, that death and the grave are deſirable. When, Lord, ſhall I die

and ſin more? Sin is worſe than death; tho' I fear not hell, but hope for pardon and eternal Life through the precious blood and merits of Chriſt; yet the burden of ſin doth ſo weigh down my ſoul that I have no peace. Surely the Lord contendeth with me, and ſuffers ſatan to aſſault and buffet me for my wickedneſs. Lord deliver me, tho' by death. O that I could die and be with Chriſt.

March 13*th. Lord's-Day.*—Aſſiſted and enabled to pray much in the morning, forenoon, and afternoon alſo—dull afterwards.——Some friends in the evening—enabled to ſpeak of the glorious myſtery of Chriſt's Perſon, God manifeſt in the fleſh, and of His unſearchable riches of grace and love---the bleſſedneſs of knowing "Chriſt in us the hope of glory;" enabled to pray alſo with them. Thanks and praiſe be unto Thee, O Lord God; may it pleaſe Thee to bleſs and ſanctify it to Thy glory.

20. *Lord's-Day.* In the morning dull and heavy—quickened and refreſhed in the forenoon by prayer—enabled to pray much; this is my refuge at all times, on all occaſions to flee unto God by ſupplication and prayer, in hope the Lord will fulfil his word and promiſe to help, bleſs, comfort, and beſtow all grace, mercy, and peace upon me, for His Name, and for Chriſt's ſake ——How miſerable ſhould I be, under all my troubles, was it not for a throne of grace, and a prayer-hearing God. I go again and again for all my wants, and under every diſtreſs caſt

my

my burden upon the Lord.——In the evening ſpoke of the covenant of free-grace, and the great covenant-head, Jeſus Chriſt; and of His fulfilling the law and dying for us.—Hope the Lord ſanctified it to thoſe with me.—Prayed and concluded the evening. Bleſſed be God.

28*th*. In the morning, being low, weak, dull, and depreſſed with a painful ſenſe of ſin, was much comforted and refreſhed with the words of Iſa. xliii. 25. "*I, even I am he who blotteth out thy tranſgreſſions for my own ſake, and will not remember thy ſins.*"

30*th*.—Deeply ſenſible of my ſins, helpleſſneſs, weakneſs, and the great need of being kept always by the Lord. Theſe words refreſhed and melted me, "Behold I am with thee, and will keep thee."

April 9*th*. A week of temptation—ſoul-trouble and diſtreſs—bowed down with beſetting ſin—ſore oppreſſed—long for death greatly—ſin more bitter than death—the Lord ſeems to leave me to myſelf, to ſuffer ſin to prevail. O what a plague is ſin! My ſoul hath no peace—little hope of deliverance till death.——Little or nothing done this week to glorify God; uſeleſs and fruitleſs. Lord, thou art juſt and holy, but I am wicked; I deſerve all, and more than all I ſuffer, for my manifold ſins.

23*d*. This day finiſhed writing ſome rules and directions to aſſiſt the faith and practice of believers; the Lord enabled me to write much this week, to go through this mite, which lay much

upon my mind: praiſed be His name. I offered it up to God in Chriſt—prayed to be directed whether I ſhould print it or not*, knowing tis the Lord's bleſſing and Spirit alone can make it uſeful.—Kept in peace while writing more than a long time; it ſeems as if the Lord bleſſed me moſt whilſt writing. Lord, direct, teach, and guide me.

25*th*.—Prayed much to know the Lord's will concerning printing theſe few Directions:—fear to do my own will.—In the afternoon, *T. C——ll*, &c. with me, and ſpent the time comfortably. Bleſſed be God.

Read out of Dr. *Collings*, that "The way to heaven is not the beaten road, but quite croſs nature's field, through the long ſtreet of ſelf-denial, and up the mountain of holineſs, at the top of which you ſhall ſee God; it lies over hedge and ditch, over rocks and mountains; you muſt leave youth-ſins on your right, cuſtom and beloved ſins on the left: if father or mother, wife or child, ſtand in your way, you muſt over their necks, acquaintance and all, &c.†"

10. Yeſter-

* This ſmall tract was publiſhed, and paſſed through two editions, the laſt of which was conſiderably enlarged, *price*, 4d.

† Should theſe papers fall into the hands of any whoſe ignorance of the ſcriptures may render them at a loſs to underſtand the intent of the animated author, above quoted, we would wiſh them to conſult our Lord's declarations. Matt. vii. 13, 14, and x. 36, 37, 38.

10*th*. Yeſterday died *Mary D*———, in the true faith of Jeſus Chriſt, in which ſhe had walked ſeven years. She bore great afflictions with patience; teſtified her faith and full aſſurance of ſalvation thro' the alone blood and righteouſneſs of Jeſus Chriſt. The Lord was pleaſed to make me (though a weak and fooliſh inſtrument) of uſe to her ſoul, by inſtructing her mind in the knowledge of Divine Things. She ever retained a grateful and affectionate regard to me on that account, and I deſire to glorify my God and Saviour for his grace beſtowed upon her, which enabled her to glorify the Lord in life and death, and alſo for his abundant grace to me in uſing me to her good.

[Soon after this, our author made an excurſion into the country, (to a place where he had been the year before) to meet a ſmall ſociety of ſerious people, who were wont to meet together in the afternoon of the Lord's-Day, in order to edify one another by prayer, reading the ſcriptures, and books of divinity (chiefly ſermons.) In this place he ſpent about a month: his manner was, to exhort and teach them from houſe to houſe, as he had opportunity, but eſpecially on the Lord's-Day afternoon, when they met together, to exhort them with all earneſtneſs to attend unto the concerns of their ſouls; preſſing the doctrines and duties of chriſtianity upon them, in the moſt zealous manner; and labouring in prayer with uncommon fervency. Herein (notwithſtanding

ſtanding his great weakneſs) he often found much aſſiſtance, ſo as to enlarge and continue his ſpeech and his prayer a very conſiderable time, and much to the people's edification. On the laſt day of being with them, he thus writes :]—

June 21*ſt. Lord's-Day.*—Met the ſociety—ſpoke much to them of Chriſt's love, grace, power, and ability to ſave ſinners—exhorted them to be ſteady, fervent, watchful, prayerful, zealous, and diligent.—Prayed much—had freedom and liberty to ſpeak. Thanks be unto Thee, O Lord, for ſupporting and upholding me in this place; for thy preſence and power, that I was not aſhamed or confounded; and that a door of uſefulneſs and utterance was opened unto me. All glory, thanks, and praiſe be unto the triune God. Parted in peace, love, and reſpect with all.

July 3*d. Lord's-Day.*—Enabled to pray long, and with attention and fervor, alſo in the forenoon to go to the holy communion. The Lord favoured me with a ſenſe of his love—melted into tears of love and joy with the ſight of Jeſus by faith—enabled to feed on him, and to believe that I ſhould be ever with him :—much comforted and refreſhed. All thanks, praiſe, and glory be unto the bleſſed triune God.——In the evening had ſeveral chriſtian friends—was favoured with much of the Divine Preſence—enabled to ſpeak of the glorious myſtery of Chriſt, and to pray with fervor. Mr. H—— alſo prayed. It was a comfortable

ſortable evening. Bleſſed be the God of all grace, and the Saviour of all ſinners.

10*th*. *Lord's-Day*. — Very heavy in ſoul — greatly bowed down—attended at the ſacrament, but had not much of the Divine Preſence—quite oppreſſed. Lord, what an amazing weak, fooliſh creature I am! Some friends in the evening, the Lord enabled me to ſpeak of bearing the croſs, of being crucified to the world*, which I much want. Several prayed:—was refreſhed in prayer. Thanks be to the God of all my mercies.

11*th*. Still heavy and ſore oppreſſed in mind concerning ———. Lord, what a wretch I am! The Lord makes every thing I am fond of, to rebuke and trouble me, to wean me from creatures: yet all is not enough, I am not mortified or crucified to theſe things as I ought to be. Lord help, heal, ſave, and deliver me from myſelf and every idol!

13*th*. So weak, low, and helpleſs, as rendered me uncapable of every thing. O Sin, the plague of plagues!—Lord Jeſus, cleanſe me by Thy Blood and Spirit.

22*d*.—Much oppreſſed theſe three days paſt, at ———. This was a blow I was not prepared for, or knew how to bear, yet I find the Lord is juſt in this; when I grow fond of any perſon or thing, then the Lord puniſhes me thereby. Juſt and righteous art Thou, O Lord, in all thy dealings with me.

Auguſt

* Gal. vi. 14.

Auguſt 6th. A ſad mourning week—full of ſoul-heavineſs—croſſes, temptations, and troubles—deſirous to die that I might be delivered from ſin:—not reſigned to the will of God as I ought.--Self-will and creature-deſires are the cauſes of my diſtreſs. Lord help me; ſeem bound in the chains of ſin. Satan aſſaults me much.

8th. This day, favoured with much of the Divine Preſence—enabled to pray much with faith and fervency—drawn much to God in Chriſt. While admiring the very amiable graces of a certain chriſtian, was led to conſider how infinitely bleſſed, amiable, and glorious muſt that God be who made, and beſtowed upon the creature ſuch bleſſed gifts and graces. If theſe are thy works, O Lord, what then art Thou? Unſpeakable*! This drew my ſoul more to Jeſus Chriſt, to deſire to be with him.

26th. —Full of heavineſs for ſome days; gloomy and comfortleſs—little opportunity of glorifying my God and Saviour. Sin oppreſſeth my ſoul. I am in a ſtrange land, a pilgrim in a vale of tears. I long and mourn to be delivered out of this wilderneſs of ſin; my ſoul mourns for my Saviour. No ſolid reſt or peace till I reſt in the boſom of Chriſt. All here are ſhadows,

* Our Author's reflexion on the World of Grace (if I may be allowed that expreſſion) brings to mind that of *Milton's* on the world of Nature.

"Theſe are thy glorious works, Parent of good
"Almighty, thine this univerſal frame,
"Thus wond'rous fair; Thyſelf how wond'rous then."

dows, empty, taſteleſs. Lord bring me to thy reſt.

September 3*d.*—Dull and heavy in ſoul ſome days—have little opportunity to glorify my God and Saviour — unprofitable and uſeleſs. My ſoul mourneth after God, and is impatient to be of ſome uſe to benefit others to glorify Chriſt.—If the Lord quickeneth or refreſheth my ſoul with his Grace and Preſence, then pride and ſatan ſuggeſt, that I have done ſomewhat to deſerve this grace. O curſed pride and ſelf, to rob God! The Lord keepeth me low and dry, that pride and ſelf might not be exalted. I want to be more deeply ſenſible that refreſhing and quickening grace is from covenant-love.

23*d.*—Enabled to pray in the morning; afterwards little of the Divine Preſence, dull, and heavy.—Afternoon, ſeemed unable and unfit to pray, yet, on attempting it, was enabled to pray more than an hour each time, with enlargement and liberty; prayed much for the Lord to open a door, and uſe me as His weak inſtrument to the good of many. Lord, hear me, bleſs, and grant my petitions.

October 4*th.* Yeſterday and to-day with *J.* ——, which ſomewhat prevented ſecret prayer. *Social prayer* will not ſupply the want of *ſecret*; the ſoul has much to ſay and beg of God, which is not ſuitable for others to hear, [and it hinders that peculiar freedom and intimacy which the humble chriſtian enjoys in his ſecret addreſſes to the Lord.]

24. Much

24*th*. Much diſordered in body, and cloudy in mind; prayed the Lord to direct and ſhew me his will concerning exhorting thoſe who come to my houſe.—Wiſhed not to proceed in it, ſo unfit, dull, and unſpiritual. The Lord ſeems not to aſſiſt me. After prayer read the fourth of Exodus, where the Lord ſaid to Moſes, "*Who made man's mouth?—now therefore go, I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou ſhalt ſay.*" This revived me and gave me ſome hope that the Lord would help, bleſs, and ſupport me.

28*th*.—Sore oppreſſed with indwelling ſin—very few met at our new ſociety—ſee nothing of the Lord's hand or bleſſing upon it yet,—endeavoured to ſpeak to them of Divine things, but tis Thou, O Lord, alone can bleſs.—Find little help, but dullneſs and heavineſs on my mind. Lord help me.—Had a long viſit from one ſuppoſed to be eminent in religion, but it was no profit to me:—ſaw much love of talking, and but little deſire of ſpeaking to God, or of the life and power of Divine things.——Wrote and ſent ſeveral letters—was convinced of pride, want of humility, patience, meekneſs, forbearance;—reſolved, in the Name of Chriſt, to practiſe theſe.

November 4*th*. The Lord hath, by many providences and reproofs, ſhewed me how much I want a mortified ſpirit and deadneſs to ſelf and worldly eſteem. I have been mocked and diſappointed of what I expected; my enemies are increaſed. I am reproved for my ſelf-will, pride, ſelf-ſeeking. It has always been ſore diſtreſſing

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to me to be deſpiſed and contemned by religious people, but the Lord ſeems now to enable me to bear reproach, injuries, and contempt with more patience and reſignation, ſhewing me alſo why he contendeth with me.

9*th*.—Many ſtrangers laſt night at our ſociety: —was enabled to ſpeak much without fear; but quite aſhamed to reflect how poor, dry, and unworthy of my God and Saviour it was:—troubled that I ſpoke ſo little and ſo poorly of Jeſus Chriſt—not fervent in prayer. O my God, may it pleaſe Thee to bleſs and ſanctify it; for I know thou canſt make it profitable, and a word in ſeaſon to every one: 'tis thy Spirit and Bleſſing alone can make it fruitful. O keep my ſoul that I may not ſeek man's praiſe, but thy glory.

16*th*. Sore oppreſſed with heavineſs of ſoul theſe three days paſt; the Lord ſeems to have remembered my ſins, and raiſed up many to rebuke me: my friends are become my enemies. Lord, how are they increaſed that trouble me! I looked for ſome to have pity upon me, but found none to comfort me: even my familiars ſeemed to watch for my halting. Lord ſanctify and teach me to profit by theſe Providences. I find that I muſt keep my mouth as with a bridle.

28*th*. So weary at my return, [*viz*. from a viſit to ſee a chriſtian friend, about half a mile diſtant from his houſe] that I thought I could not pray or ſit up; but attempting the duty, the Lord ſo aſſiſted me with his His preſence, that I was enabled to pray more than an hour with

faith and comfort. Bleſſed be my God, who giveth power to the weak and faint!——Sorely oppreſſed with envy and pride; this diſtreſſeth me and makes me complain and cry much to my God and Saviour to be healed. O how I feel and experience the truth of theſe words,

"'Tis worſe than death my God to love
"And not my God alone."

December 31*ſt*.—Heavy in ſoul—greatly oppreſſed in mind—my life a burden—long to die. Attempted to recollect the many mercies of God beſtowed upon me this year, both in temporal and ſpiritual bleſſings. How many evils and troubles the Lord hath preſerved me from! How he hath ſupported and preſerved me in ſoul and body; defending me from enemies; upholding me under all my weakneſs, temptations, and trials; keeping me from ſatan's aſſaults, &c. enabling me to bear witneſs to Jeſus in words, and in publiſhing a ſmall tract*.—Supporting ſuch a weak creature with his Preſence and Power to ſpeak of Chriſt before many people: alſo for preſerving, and bleſſing unto me what his bounty hath beſtowed upon me in temporal things:—moreover in ſparing me and not puniſhing me as my ſins deſerved.—Endeavoured to praiſe and give thanks unto the Lord for all theſe His mercies; and in the evening ſpoke of them to

* Viz. "Some Directions and Advice to aſſiſt the Faith and Practice of true Believers."

to others. All glory be unto Thee, O Lord; let me not forget thy benefits, but praiſe Thee more and more, for thy mercy endureth for ever.

January 1ſt. 1769.—Made a freſh offering of myſelf to God, body, ſoul, and ſpirit. O moſt Holy and Bleſſed Glorious Trinity, Father, Son, and Spirit in one glorious Jehovah! I offer my whole Self to be entirely devoted to thy ſervice. Lord accept and bleſs me in Chriſt Jeſus. Grant, if Thou ſhouldſt continue my life, it may be to glorify Thee; and that I may be made inſtrumental in edifying many ſouls. Lord keep me, bleſs, ſupport, guide, ſanctify, and teach me the way of my duty; and grant that this year I may glorify Thee more and better, whether it be by life or death.

February 11th.—Read the Life of the "Rev. *David Brainard*†." A moſt holy, divine man, burning with zeal and love to Chriſt! Sacrificed all things to promote His Kingdom and glory in this world; preaching among the ſavage Indians; ſuffering all hardſhips that he might preach Jeſus Chriſt, and convert ſinners to God. The Lord bleſſed his labours; he was a man of much ſecret prayer;—wreſtling day and night in prayer for the Lord to bleſs him in his work—ſpent his life in labours of love--had a ſweet and bleſſed end

† Miſſionary to the *Indians*, from the honorable Society in *Scotland*, for the propagation of Chriſtian Knowledge, &c. chiefly taken from his own Diary, and publiſhed by *Jonathan Edwards*, M. A.

at thirty years of age. Living and dying he left a glorious teſtimony.

20*th.* I find I am not reſigned and humble as I ought. I want to be nothing, to be empty of every thing of Self, that Chriſt may be all in all. I deſire and pray that the Lord may wholly poſſeſs me; that I may conſider myſelf as nothing, as a poor, empty, lifeleſs, barren thing; and as ſuch, to renounce my own will, and give up all into the hands of my Lord and Saviour, that he may live and reign in me, uſing me and all I am and have as he pleaſeth; to have no will, no deſires of my own, but to be as clay in the potter's hands. This would be my happineſs and God's glory. Lord, grant me this grace and wiſdom.

March 3*d.*—Read of Mr. *David Brainard*, that "He was ſolid, meek, humble, pleaſant, pious, and holy; a man of prayer; praying whole days, &c. yet far from any ſtiffneſs, ſuperſtitious demureneſs, formality, or affected ſingularity in ſpeech or behaviour."—He ſays himſelf, "that he inſiſted much on the doctrines of regeneration, faith in Chriſt, a new nature, growth in ſanctification, ſupreme love to God, and living entirely to God's Glory. He loathed all ſuch notions and doctrines as tended to Antinomianiſm, or to leſſen the neceſſity of holineſs, or abate mens' regard to the commands of God, under pretence of magnifying God's free-grace. He deſpiſed ſuch joys and ſenſations as have nothing in them of the nature of ſanctification, and which do not

lead

lead to an holy practice, diligence, humility, love, poverty of ſpirit, a cloſe walk with God, and growing into the Spirit of Jeſus Chriſt. He ſpake much of falſe religion; of perſons reſting in joys, frames, &c. yet never brought out of ſelf or their own ſpirit—ſtopping ſhort of the great change in heart and life. He much feared that multitudes periſh in this ſeeming converſion, becauſe ſo little is ſaid from pulpits to point out the dangers of this nature." The Lord uſed him to convert a town of ſavage Indians, who were brought to ſuch faith, humility, diligence, prayerfulneſs, and ſanctity as ſurpaſſes all I ever read of, to be ſo general. He died in great faith, joy, and deſire to be with Chriſt.

May 5th. Lord's-Day.—Dull and low all day:—much to ſay to the Lord in prayer. Under all reproaches caſt upon me, I cry unto the Lord, who performeth all things for me.——Received the holy Communion, but was very dull, and heavy, little of the love of Chriſt;—could not lift up myſelf, nor was drawn by love as I deſired.—Spoke in the evening to many of the Love and free mercy of God, diſplayed to ſinners in the parable of the Prodigal Son. The Lord enabled me to ſpeak much, and to pray with fervency. Thanks be to Thee, O Lord; Hear, and bleſs my poor attempts, O my God, to glorify Thee.

June 10th.—Very weak and low in body and mind all this week—little done to glorify my God and Saviour—faint, helpleſs—troubled leſt I ſhould do wrong in ſpeaking to this ſociety,

It grows formidable when I ſee ſo many people, and it almoſt overcomes me to think how I dare ſpeak to them of the wonderful things of Chriſt. I am unequal to it, and fear leſt I ſhould diſhonor my God and his cauſe; I am looking unto the Lord to know his will, and for grace and power to do it. O what a worm I am! Lord ſupport and help me.

September 26th.—Interrupted in morning duty. Mr. ——— prayed in the family with fervor, ſpirit, and power,—was refreſhed thereby; yet my ſoul was not ſatisfied, but wanted to be alone with my God to pour out my heart before him, to lay all my ways, wants, and miſeries before him, to be directed, governed, and kept by him in all things. My ſoul muſt wait upon God; nothing ſhort of God can content or comfort me.

October 1ſt. Lord's-Day.—Extremely weak, low, and dull;—enabled to pray, though not with much fervor; yet tis the way of duty which the Lord aſſiſts me to walk in, believing all my poor, wretched ſervices are accepted thro' the merits of the Great Advocate, the Bleſſed High Prieſt, who ever liveth to make interceſſion for us: therefore in all frames I wait upon my God: he changeth not; he accepteth us in Chriſt. Our frames are not ſo much regarded as the bent of our will. Never have I more need to wait upon God, than when in a dull, dead frame, that I may be renewed and quickened.

3*d.*—Dull and heavy all day—oppreſſed in ſpirit—knew not what to ſay to the people—looked

unto

unto the Lord for a word, and to be quickened—very few came—unable to ſpeak with any ſpirit—dry, barren, &c.—unwilling to go on, under a deep ſenſe of my weakneſs, want of gifts, grace, power, and courage. Lord teach me what is thy will; let thine be done and mine be ſubject thereto. My ſoul is comfortleſs, helpleſs, Lord ſhew me what I ſhall do. Make the way of duty plain; ſupport me in it, if it is thy will. I ſee little fruit of the Lord's bleſſing upon it. I labour in vain and for nought, but my eyes are towards Thee, O Lord, to direct and chooſe for me. O leave me not to myſelf.

4*th*. 'Tis now a year ſince this ſociety begun. I ſee little fruit to God's glory. The Lord ſupported and enabled me from time to time to ſpeak, glorifying his wiſdom, power, and grace in my weakneſs and folly. I ſee more and more the neceſſity of deep, humble, childlike dependence upon God; to be kept, taught, ſupported, and guided by the Lord in all things, not expecting comfort, ſucceſs, or peace in any thing, but ſo far only as the Lord ſhall bleſs and work.

15*th*.—Read Mr. *Howe* on "Delighting in God." Many charming truths: he ſhews * the folly and deluſions of ſome, who place religion in knowledge only; others in hearing, and ſome in talking only. He expoſes the preſumption of thoſe who perſuade themſelves they are elected, that God loves them, and that they ſhall be ſaved at

* Vid. Page 49, 128, 186, 188.

at laſt, though they never were humbled or renewed in heart, or united to Chriſt, but live as they liſt; and ſay "that for ſo long they have believed and had aſſurance of ſalvation," and therefore cry peace, peace, to their ſouls; he ſays the devil deceives them and is the author of their faith; tis a lie they believe, contrary to God's word. There are others alſo deceive themſelves, who place all religion in ſenſible joys and comforts, without being transformed into the image of Chriſt; —never were regenerated or made new creatures, yet dream of joys, raptures, &c. while their unſanctified hearts lie ſteeped;—yet having got notions and opinions of God and Chriſt, which tickle their fancies without changing their hearts, this, ſays he, is the moſt dangerous error and miſtake of all, and the more ſo becauſe many who make much pretence to religion are in this dreadful deluſion.

27*th*. Reflecting on the ſtate of my ſoul, I can ſay, to the glory of God and the riches of his free-grace, that for ſome time, I have grown more out of my own will and ſpirit, and more into the image of Jeſus Chriſt—leſs pride and ſelf-will—more humble, reſigned, and patient—leſs worldly, more heavenly-minded. Thanks, praiſe, and glory, be unto Thee, Thou bleſſed, triune God. 'Tis Thou, O Lord, who haſt helped and healed me in part; for ſtill I ſee how much pride, ſelf-will, impatience, &c. wants to be removed. Lord Jeſus, perfect thy work of grace in me, and truly heal my ſoul.

Decem-

December 13*th*.—Had more opportunity for ſecret prayer both in the morning and forenoon: thanks be unto Thee, O Lord. O what a privilege is it to go to the throne of Grace, to a God who heareth and grants our petitions: my ſoul longeth after God; nothing but Jeſus can comfort, fill, and ſatisfy my ſoul.

31*ſt*. Lord, thou haſt carried me through another year: many have been Thy mercies to me herein. My bodily health is rather increaſed; the Lord hath kept my houſe from ſickneſs, no plague hath come nigh my dwelling: my affairs alſo are kept in peace. Lord, whilſt many have loſt their ſubſtance thou haſt preſerved mine in ſafety. Thou haſt up-held and ſupported thy very weak creature, and enabled me to bear teſtimony to Jeſus Chriſt: many are thy mercies ſpiritual and temporal this year. Let my ſoul praiſe Thee, O Lord, and not forget thy benefits.——In the evening ſpoke of obſerving all the mercies of the paſt year, in order to render thanks and praiſe for the ſame, both in ſpirituals and temporals:—forty or fifty people preſent—entreated them to devote themſelves to God in body, ſoul, affairs, &c. Lord do Thou ſanctify and make them willing.

January 1*ſt*. 1770. As the Lord hath brought me to the beginning of another year, I attempted to give thanks and praiſe for the many mercies received; both in family, but more ſo in ſecret prayer, and again devoted myſelf to the

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Lord to be wholly his. O Lord God Almighty, Father, Son, and Spirit in One Eternal Jehovah, I here offer my whole ſelf, body, ſoul, and ſpirit to be wholly thine—to be uſed to thy glory—to be diſpoſed of as it ſhall pleaſe Thee, whether to live or die. I commit my will, affections, &c. every gift and talent unto Thee; alſo all my affairs and concerns I commit to thy hands, praying Thee, for Chriſt's ſake, that every faculty and power of body and ſoul may be devoted to thy ſervice, ſanctified and uſed to thy glory. O Father, Son, and Spirit, teach, guide, and diſpoſe of me, and all things concerning me, as it ſhall be moſt for thy glory. O make me more fruitful to thy glory, make me more uſeful to thy people, and make the way of duty plain.

This morning died *J. C——ll*, a very pious young man:—ſhed tears at the reflection. O how awful it is to die, to depart and live in an unknown ſtate in a world of ſpirits!—Though ſo holy and pious yet he had little or no conſolations, but ſome fears and temptations. Let me adore and revere the wonderous diſpenſations of God! Let me live and die, O Lord, to thy glory.

February 24th.—Had ſome profitable diſcourſe with ſome who newly came to the ſociety;—prayed with them—little done to glorify my God all this week.—Received a letter from one which troubled me, as it gave me to fear that all my labours in the country were in vain.——Sin and tempta-

temptation ſorely aſſault me this week—my ſin and wickedneſs may prevent the Lord's bleſſing my poor wretched labours, becauſe I mix *my own vile ſpirit with the precious things of God.*

March 7th.—Extremely weak and low theſe two days; laſt night ſo faint in body and mind as ſcarce able to ſpeak, yet the Lord revived me and helped me to ſpeak an hour from Pſ. cxix. 174. *I have longed for thy ſalvation, &c.* Lord ſanctify and bleſs what thou gaveſt me to ſpeak. —Received a freſh rebuke for not keeping my mouth as with a bridle;—reſolved this morning, in the name of Chriſt, and in the power of his grace, to ſpeak nothing of any abſent perſon, unleſs compelled, nor to ſpeak of their faults without need, and to avoid needleſs words, having ſeen the Lord rebuking and puniſhing of me for this thing. Lord give me grace and wiſdom not to ſay any thing, unleſs to thy glory.

March 20th. This day finiſhed my tract*. It has been a great labour indeed; the Lord has carried me through, and ſupported me in great weakneſs.—Laid it before my God and Saviour, —gave thanks for enabling me to write it—alſo offered it up to God, through Jeſus Chriſt, to be accepted, bleſſed, and brought forth in print:—that my God might bleſs and ſanctify it by his Spirit to the good of many ſouls. O my God, all my hope is in Thee, thou haſt enabled me to write it, now bring it forth, own, and bleſs it

* Viz. "An Earneſt Addreſs to all profeſſing Chriſtians, &c."

it for Chriſt's ſake. To whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit, be all glory.

April.—Continue weak—ſinking in body and mind—looking out to ſee the approach of death, and looking unto the Lord for help and ſupport in body and mind, to fit me whether it be for life or death.

June 23d. This morning ſaw, prayed, and talked with Mr. ———, ſorry to find him luke-warm, cold, trifling, quite indifferent; the fit ſeems over; his reſpect ſeemed forced and formal. Lord, grant me not to truſt in creatures, no not in warm profeſſions of kindneſs.

July 27th.—Rode to ſee the Sea—was greatly amazed at beholding theſe mighty waters—aſtoniſhed at the wonderous works of God, and melted with love at his goodneſs, mercy, and grace, who humbleth himſelf to behold poor mortals! Nay, that He who made and holds the ſea in the hollow of his hand*, ſhould come down to bleed and die to redeem poor loſt ſinners! This melted me into tears of love, adoration, wonder, and praiſe.

September 5th. My wife's affliction increaſes, which, together with my weakneſs and decays, greatly oppreſſes my very weak ſpirits. God is my refuge; to him I flee for help, ſupport, faith, and patience, by frequent prayer and ſupplications. Lord heal and help me. I fear the Lord hath called my ſins to remembrance: all my

* Iſa. xl. 12.

my hope and plea is, "Mercy, for Chriſt's ſake!" ——Few people at the ſociety:—ſo low I knew not how to ſpeak.—Laſt night my wife talked of dying, and the concerns of her ſoul:—appeared much affected and afflicted. Lord, be my help in this time of trouble.

12*th*. — Heavy and oppreſſed this morning, ſcarcely able to pray in ſecret. My wife ſeemed revived, had much peace; ſaid, "that God had heard our prayers for her—that God could pardon ſinners, even the thief on the croſs, and *Mary Magdalen*;"—deſired we would praiſe and give thanks, which I did with an enlarged heart, but afterwards ſhe was poorly and low again.

14*th*. My ſorrows are increaſed; this day my wife grew delirious. O this has diſtreſſed my ſoul yet more and more! All my help and hope is in the Lord; to my God I flee by prayer—I cry and ceaſe not—my ſoul waiteth upon God. Lord hear me!—In the evening ſhe ſeemed better. Lord, thou doſt hear me when I call upon Thee.

12*th*. Laſt night a few met for prayer:—had ſome fervor and liberty to wreſtle and ſtrive in prayer.—Troubles and diſtreſſes increaſe as wave follows wave in the ſtormy ſea.——This morning called out of bed to my wife, who was almoſt in diſtraction; this ſtruck me ſpeechleſs,—trembled and ready to fall.—O what a ſight! Her reaſon loſt; little hope of relief by any human means. Lord, to thee I cry, all my hope

and help is in thy mercy. O this is an affliction greater than all I feared! Prayer, faith, hope, patience is my employ. O my God, help and ſupport me, for thy name and mercy's ſake. I am called by thy name, leave me not!

October 2d. A few met for prayer:—was very low, faint, and dull: I prayed but poorly, *W*——— prayed, then I concluded with a parting prayer and bleſſing; and thus ended my poor attempt of a ſociety, after two years, by my wife's affliction. I am cut off from all uſefulneſs; the Lord ſeems to ſhut up every door, and to croſs and mock all my attempts; and every device I take to ſhun this croſs. I do now attempt to commit all things to God; to ceaſe contriving for myſelf, or to get rid of the croſs, and to wait, pray, and truſt in God alone.

12th. This day, on a ſudden, unexpectedly, my wife ſeemed much better, and continued ſo all day; this gave me a reviving hope that the Lord had heard my prayers, and others for me. This was very refreſhing to my ſoul, yet mixed with fears leſt ſhe ſhould relapſe.—Gave thanks and praiſe for this reviving mercy.

January 1ſt. 1771.—Very, weak, and faint: attempted to ſurvey and give thanks for the mercies of the paſt year. The Lord enabled me to write and publiſh my "Plain Addreſs, &c."—Thanks be to Thee, O Lord, for enabling me to bear this teſtimony; for ſupporting me under my great afflictions, and for relieving me in any meaſure;

meaſure; though my afflictions continue, yet the Lord upholds me, ſupports and gives ſtrength according to my day. All thanks and praiſe to Thee, O Lord, Father, Son and Spirit, in one Jehovah. ——— This morning on my knees, made a freſh offer and ſurrender of myſelf to God, body, ſoul, and all I am and have, praying to be guided, taught, and governed by the Lord; to be devoted to his glory, and diſpoſed of by him.

—O moſt holy, bleſſed, almighty God, Father, Son, and Spirit, in one Jehovah, I devote and ſurrender myſelf, body and ſoul, with all my faculties and powers, to be wholly thine; my goods, time, &c. to be the Lord's. Accept me, O Lord, in Chriſt! diſpoſe of me as it ſhall be moſt for thy glory; pour out thy ſpirit upon me; make me willing to be deſpiſed, contemned, or to ſuffer for Chriſt, if it pleaſe Thee; teach me the way of duty, place me where thou wilt; ſubdue my will to thine—make me willing to live or die, to be uſed or refuſed. O my God, I commit myſelf and my ways to Thee; undertake for me, chooſe an habitation for me where thou wilt bleſs me, and cauſe me to find reſt and peace. Lord, teach and ſhew me whether I ſhould ſpeak and bear witneſs to thy truth or not: make thy way plain before me—prepare and fit me for all thou ſhalt call me to. If I live, O grant it may be to thy glory—if I die this year, let me glorify Thee in my death, and finiſh my courſe with joy. I am deſolate, weak, afflicted, and helpleſs; Lord, be thou my comfort,

helper, guide, and ſupport. I commit my wife and ſelf to thy mercy and love in Chriſt. O lead me in a plain path: if it is thy will I ſhould abide in this place, let it be to edify and build up theſe people. Grant all for Chriſt's ſake; to whom with Thee and the Holy Spirit be all glory, thanks, and praiſe, Amen.

JOHN GLOVER.

March 14*th*. This day * I ſat amidſt the deſolations of my once-loved habitation, to bewail and lament my preſent miſery. I looked around and ſhed tears at the ſad and melancholy ſcene. It ſeems a real death to part with thoſe places and things we have been ſo long familiar with, never to behold them more. I ſat and wept, and wiſhed, "O that I had a peaceful grave!"—I thought to have died in my neſt, but the Lord hath caſt me out and made me wander in a ſtrange land.

April 20*th*.—Did not ſpeak on *Wedneſday* Evening, but a ſermon was read.—Still much diſordered

* It may not be improper to inform the Reader, that Mrs. *Glover* continuing in her Afflictions, which increaſed very much as to her mind, as well as body, ſo that ſhe was quite bereaved of her ſenſes; it became therefore neceſſary to have her removed to a friend's houſe and conſtantly attended. During this melancholy ſcene, our Author came to a concluſion to remove into the Country, to a place where he had opportunity to retire, and to enjoy the converſation of ſome chriſtian friends, which he apprehended might be of comfort to himſelf, as well as his labours in exhortations and prayer might (thro' the Divine Bleſſing) be uſeful to them.

dered in body, and next day more ſo both in body and mind, at hearing the Lord had increaſed my afflictions, by adding a ſore bodily diſeaſe to that on the mind and ſpirit of my wife. O how am I bowed down!—Diſtreſſed greatly, O when will the Lord ceaſe to contend with me?—I am broken with breach upon breach; diſtraction, waſte, ſpoil, diſeaſe, reproach, contempt, deſolations, &c. are come upon me!—Caſt into a ſtrange land; no hope, no comfort but my God. Lord, help me; give me a patient, ſuffering ſpirit, faith, peace, and reſignation.—Nothing done to glorify God all this week.——This evening a prayer-meeting; ſeven prayed; many prayed for me and my poor unhappy wife, yet no anſwer of peace, but troubles increaſed.—Little of the Divine Preſence all this evening. Lord quicken me, ſanctify me, and hear theſe prayers for Chriſt's ſake.

May 15*th*. This evening heard that the Lord had, in great mercy, delivered my poor unhappy wife out of this miſerable ſtate: though I was ſhocked at the news, yet 'tis a great mercy indeed. She died, after having been near nine months in great diſtreſs, in a ſad diſtracted ſtate, helpleſs, miſerable, and ſenſeleſs. Lord, thou haſt remembered mercy.—Shed tears to her memory, and much bowed down all night.——After thirty years marriage, I am now left weak and deſolate in this wretched world.—Attempted to commit my whole Self to God to be wholly his.

June 6*th*.—Unhinged by too much company and too much talk;—was grieved and bowed down becauſe I had ſpoke many words of vanity. Lord, though thou haſt corrected and rebuked me, yet I am not purged. Lord, I repent; am ſorry that I ſin, and am yet full of pride: tho' ſo much chaſtized yet I am not healed. Lord, have mercy upon me, pardon and heal me.

July 30*th*. Yeſterday foiled by my beſetting ſin—bowed down under a ſenſe of my wicked heart and nature, yet the Lord in great mercy lifted me up and revived my ſpirit. I was much refreſhed by reading the experience of *Owen Stockton*, obſerving what effect the word of God had upon him to quicken and comfort him; and the Lord was pleaſed greatly to renew my ſtrength, and increaſe faith, hope, joy, and comfort by his own word: particularly, Iſa. liv*th*. filled me with conſolation, "Fear not, thou ſhalt not be aſhamed.—I have ſworn that I will not be wrath with thee, nor rebuke thee; the mountains ſhall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindneſs ſhall not depart from thee nor the covenant of my peace be removed, ſaith the Lord, &c."—— I was greatly comforted when I retired to bed, from the above chapter;—melted into tears that the Lord ſhould regard me and look upon me to comfort me, notwithſtanding all my wickedneſs. I ſaw 'twas covenant-love. Bleſſed be the Lord, who alone comforted me. O that I was ſanctified and holy!

September

September 7th.—Pride is raiſed by every gratification;—Self and Pride want eſteem, &c.—O curſed root of ſin!—Barren and dull all day—much ſin and temptation. O Lord, thou doſt uphold and ſupport thy poor ſinful miſerable worm, though my ſins and rebellions againſt thee increaſe. I ſeem to grow worſe and worſe: I ſhould ſink under a ſenſe of my ſins, was not my hope in covenant-love and mercy.

27*th.*—Finiſhed reading Dr. *Cotton Mather's* Life. O, what a bleſſed life of godly diligence, holy induſtry, and fruitfulneſs! His act of reſignation to God encouraged me to offer up myſelf to God in Chriſt alſo; and therefore,

Having choſen the Lord for my chief good, my laſt end, and my preſent and everlaſting portion; and deſiring to live only to his glory, to do all things to that end, I made an offering of my whole Self, all I am, all I have, and all I can do to my Lord and God.

Moſt Glorious God; I do this day offer and reſign my body, ſoul, and all I am and have to be wholly thine. I take thee, O Lord, to be my God, thy glory my only end and deſign; for which alone I would live, and the enjoyment of thee my only happineſs, joy, and ſalvation. Lord, I would renounce my own will, and let thy will be my will, O God. I caſt all my cares upon Thee. O thou moſt wiſe God, I reſign all unto Thee; if I live, let it be to thy glory, if I die let it be to thy glory. I now profeſs that I

put all my concerns into thy hands. Lord God Almighty, perform all things for me. Whatever now befals me, will be an effect of the Great Jehovah's infinite wiſdom and goodneſs*. Whatever now befals me, however ſeemingly croſs, I will, through thy grace, endeavour to be contented therewith, and receive it as from the hand of my good God, my Father and beſt Friend, who hath undertaken to conduct my affairs for ever!—And now let me think myſelf happy, that the Lord is my God,—My God in Covenant, my Father in Chriſt!—O my ſoul, O my will, remember after this never to be diſturbed about future events, but to receive and approve the Lord's dealings with thee in all things.

JOHN GLOVER.

September 27, 1771.

28*th*.—'Tis good to have a promiſe, and to reſt and truſt in it for every thing we want, and in every ſervice we perform. For daily wants, "God will ſupply all your needs."—For grace for every duty, "My grace is ſufficient, &c."—For ſucceſs, "Whatſoever he doth ſhall proſper."—For protection, "No evil ſhall befall thee."—For direction and counſel, "I will inſtruct thee and teach thee in the way thou ſhouldſt go

* Let not the incautious Reader from hence infer, that our Author imagined the dealings of God towards him would now be *more wiſe* than *formerly*; all he intends is, an holy reſolution to receive all the diſpenſations of God as ſuch, and hereby to ſubmit his underſtanding to the wiſdom of God.

go." — For patience, reſignation, &c. "All things ſhall work together for good.

December 2d.—With Mr. *G*——— moſt part of the day. I do not find company or converſation helps, but hinders me in the divine life; it takes me off meditation, ſecret prayer, watchfulneſs; loſes my time and prevents waiting upon God. I am beſt when alone; moſt with my God when ſeparate from company.

31ſt. I am brought to the concluſion of another year. I may ſing of mercy and judgment. O what trouble and diſtreſs have I had this year, yet the Lord upheld and delivered me, though my ſins brought them upon me. The Lord has taken away my poor wife in mercy, I truſt, to her and me alſo.—This year I am caſt out as a broken veſſel; I find contempt in every place, more or leſs: this is the Lord's doing, for my pride and ſelf-ſeeking. O, my God, thou art holy, juſt, and wiſe! O that I was healed, humbled, ſanctified, reſigned, &c. but alas I am not. O how much ſin and Self remains! I deſerve to be conſumed, yet the Lord is gracious and continues many mercies to me. I am ſtill kept from want, poverty, &c.—The Lord beſtoweth on me a meaſure of ſtrength, the uſe of reaſon, ſenſes, and faculties;—gives me ſome friends;—a place to hide me in, to live in peace;—provides for my wants;—keeps me near himſelf;—gives me a bleſſed hope in Him;—anſwers my poor prayers;—upholds me in great weakneſs;—hath brought out a third edition of my "Remarks on the Iſ-

raelites

raelites' Paſſage, &c." and a ſecond, of my "Directions and Advice, &c." for theſe, and all thy mercies, O Lord, give me a thankful heart. O let me praiſe, thank, and glorify thee my God, for all the mercies of this paſt year, through Jeſus Chriſt; to whom with Thee and the Holy Ghoſt, be all glory, thanks, love, and praiſe, with my whole heart and ſoul. Amen.

January 1ſt. 1772. This morning, on my knees, I made a freſh ſurrender of myſelf to God in Chriſt; devoting body, ſoul, and all I am and have to God's glory, praying the Lord to accept and bleſs me in Chriſt, that if I live, it may be to glorify my God. O Lord, uphold, keep, teach, and ſanctify me, that I may be wholly thine; grant my ſpared life may be to glorify thee! Lord, diſpoſe of me to that end: grant my poor tracts may bring a tribute of glory to thee, and benefit to ſouls through thy bleſſing:—grant my poor exhortations and letters may be ſanctified and bleſſed to that end. O Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt in one Jehovah, I offer my body, ſoul, ſpirit, all I have, and all I am; my faculties, powers, reaſon, opportunities for ſervice, to be wholly thine;—to ſpend and be ſpent in thy ſervice; devoted to thy glory. If I live, let it be to glorify thee, if I die let me glorify thee in death. O ſubdue my will; fill me with faith, wiſdom, reſignation, and all grace and power, that in all things I may glorify thy name.

June

June 12th. I ſeem much inwardly decayed, weak, and waſting. I am looking to ſee what is the Lord's will concerning me;—ſeem rather more willing to live a while longer, but not much;—have a bleſſed hope, and abiding peace and reſt in Chriſt; though not full of joy, yet through grace, a ſettled faith that I am pardoned, juſtified, and accepted in Chriſt. The Lord upholds and ſupports me, my ſoul waiteth for the Lord, my eye is ever to my God, to be kept, taught, and prepared for every ſtate; for life or death.

October 26th.—Full of pain and weakneſs;—ſeem to ſink and decline. This day in meditation I had awful apprehenſions, as to the cauſe of my afflictions: the Lord ſeems to ſhew me wherefore he contendeth with me. I ſaw the Lord was awfully juſt, and was made ſenſible that though God ſaves the ſoul, yet ſin has a preſent puniſhment* in this life. God remembers our ſins when we have forgotten them. O, how bitter was this to me! I ſaw that I deſerved to be utterly deſtroyed for paſt ſins, even ſince I believed. I ſaw the ſin of my nature exceeding great, and that God was holy and juſt in chaſtiſing me with bodily afflictions, pains, croſſes,

* Our Author means not of an *expiatory* kind, as if our ſufferings were *exacted* upon us by way of *ſatisfaction* for our ſins; but intimates, that though freely pardoned, yet God manifeſts unto the Soul his juſt diſpleaſure againſt ſin, making the remembrance of our paſt offences grievous unto us, ſee 2 Sam. xii. 10, 13. Jer. ii. 19. Ezek. xvi. 63.

ſes, contempt, &c. This led me to humble myſelf before the Lord, to adore his juſtice and beg for grace, faith, and patience to bear all afflictions.

30*th*. I find that nothing but God can content, ſatisfy, or give me peace;—no converſe, place, or perſons, can ſatisfy or fill the deſires of my ſoul: the Lord is my portion, reſt, and peace; my ſoul longeth and thirſteth after God. All things ſeem inſipid, taſteleſs, empty, and vain; they afford no comfort or enjoyment: my ſoul longeth and panteth to be alone with my God; the Lord will not ſuffer me to find peace reſt, or comfort but in himſelf; I am drawn more and more to my God as all-ſufficient; I find a croſs or bitterneſs in every thing but the Lord. I ſpoke this week of God's all-ſufficiency: if God be all-ſufficient, O then let me, O my God, enjoy thee as my portion, and let me be entirely thine without reſerve!

December 31*ſt*. I have omitted my Diary along while; pain and weakneſs, and other things prevented writing: the Lord continues to teach, uphold, and comfort me under all my croſſes and afflictions which are rather increaſed.——I hope the Lord teaches me while he corrects me, and draws me more from creatures to himſelf.—Have been looking back on the paſt year, to ſee the Lord's dealings with me: the Lord has carried me through this year in much weakneſs;—has preſerved me and all my affairs in peace.—I ſee his hand beſtowing every mercy. I taſte his good-

goodneſs. I find his protection over me is all my ſafety and all my peace. But what have I done for God? Nothing. O, 'tis a year of barrenneſs and unfruitfulneſs! I cannot ſee that I have lived to any purpoſes of God's glory—a ground-cumberer!

January 1ſt. 1773. The Lord has brought me to the beginning of another year. O, that it may be a more fruitful year to God than the laſt! I this morning offered up my body, ſoul, and all I am and have to God, Father, Son and and Spirit, to be entirely devoted to his ſervice.

O my God, accept me in Chriſt, bleſs me in Chriſt, make me fruitful in Chriſt. If I live this year, O let it be to glorify Thee! Make me fruitful in old age, according to thy word; ſhew me the path of duty, help me to walk in it.—If this be a year of afflictions, O, ſanctify them and ſupport me to glorify thee in the fires;—if thou give a little ſtrength, O, grant it may be ſpent to glorify Thee! If this be my dying year, O grant I may finiſh my courſe with joy! O let me, living or dying, be wholly thine! O let all my affairs be in thine hands. O Lord, over-rule all for good, and grant me inward and outward peace. O Father, Son, and Spirit, Thou bleſſed God, bleſs me, teach, keep, and uphold me; diſpoſe of me and all concerning me to thy glory, and let me be ſanctified, humbled, and reſigned in all things to thy will, O my God!

February 12th. I may ſing of mercy and judgment ſince I wrote laſt. I have been brought down almoſt to the grave, yet the Lord has revived me. The Lord enables me to truſt and believe in him for all things. I hope the Lord increaſeth faith and grace in my ſoul, drawing me more to himſelf, and more into the Image and Spirit of Chriſt; enabling me to be more reſigned to the Divine Will, and to commit myſelf and all things into the hands of my God. I hope the Lord ſhews me his all-ſufficiency, enabling me to reſt in him as my portion. I ſee the hand of his providence watches over me, provides all things for my comfort and ſupport. He gives me peace, helps me to pray much unto him, to commune and to pour out my heart before him. I look to the Lord for every relief in body, ſoul, and temporal affairs; and O, the condeſcenſion of my God! He heareth my prayers and anſwers them, reviving me when ſinking in weakneſs, quieting my ſpirit, comforting my ſoul, &c. though I ſee I am but of little uſe to God's glory or man's good. I ſee but little fruit of my poor attempts;—am ſhut up or ſhut out, but I am in the Lord's hands: O let me wait, be reſigned, and content. I find a ſupreme love to God and Chriſt in my ſoul; all is but droſs and dung to me in reſpect to the love of God. I tremble to depart from God in the leaſt matter;—nothing can comfort, ſupport, or ſatisfy me but God;—am more and more convinced

vinced of ſin :—the Lord hath ſhewn me what great ſins I have committed, even in theſe years of affliction. I have gone on frowardly in my ways, yet I hope God's rich mercy and grace in Jeſus has pardoned me, and healed me alſo in ſome ſort. Praiſe and bleſs the Lord, O my ſoul!

April 4th. The Lord has been very gracious to me this month; keeping me near to himſelf; ſupporting me in body and ſoul; teaching me to truſt in him, to rely, hope, and pray unto him, and to expect all good and comfort from him alone. Sin is not yet ſubdued entirely; I find it as to ſome things, which I hoped had been finally overcome. I cry to the Lord for help, grace, and power, to vanquiſh all ſin. The Lord weans and draws me more and more from truſting in man, or expecting good from creatures. I humbly hope that the Lord increaſes faith and all grace in me; glory be to his holy name!

May 12th. I am brought to begin another month: mercy and goodneſs ſtill follow me; my God upholds, ſupports, and comforts me amidſt all my weakneſs and decays of nature. I ſeem to ſink; my heart and fleſh faileth; death ſeems to advance upon me, yet the Lord gives me peace: I have a bleſſed hope. In the midſt of weakneſs the Lord comforted me with an holy joy and deſire to depart and be with Chriſt. I am ſetting my houſe in order for my departure,

and

and waiting for my diſſolution. O Lord, comfort, uphold, and fill me with divine faith and conſolations, that I may glorify Thee in my death and finiſh my courſe with joy.

June 14th. Having been extremely weak, waſting, and ſeeming near my diſſolution, I attempted to write ſome addition to my experience, of what the Lord had taught me to know and obſerve concerning his wonders of providence and grace;—what he has further ſhewed me of himſelf, his word, works, grace, and truth;—what he has ſhewed me of myſelf and preſent ſtate;—what uſe my long afflictions have been to me;—what I have obſerved of profeſſors during theſe years I have been converſant with them: and I have added many remarks concerning falſe religion, errors and deluſions, all which I commit to the Lord, intending to leave the ſame as a teſtimony to his truth, hoping after my deceaſe, it will be printed, and that the Lord will ſanctify and make it uſeful to many ſouls, that it may bring glory and praiſe to his holy name.

July 9th. I am ſtill in a very weak low ſtate; my body ſeems to decay and waſte more and more. I came to this place the *17th* of laſt month; the Lord was pleaſed to uphold and give me a comfortable journey, &c. For ſome days I had better health; riding and change of air ſeemed to revive me, but I ſoon relapſed. The Lord ſeems to think it good for me to live as on the borders of the grave—a ſort of dying life. I

have

have had ſerious thoughts of dying ſince I have been here;—ſeem to feel my diſſolution; my nature ſinking. I have begged of the Lord to uphold me whilſt in this place, that I ſink not, but that I may have ſome little meaſure of bodily eaſe, during my continuance here, and to lead me where I may die in peace; and above all, that I may glorify God in my death. I hope the Lord hears my prayears: I am, through his mercy, a little revived;—am enabled to ſpeak his word, under this great weakneſs, to many people. O my God, bleſs and ſanctify thy own word; let ſome ſoul be really converted and thy grace glorified!

Auguſt 9th. I think the Lord heard my prayers ſince I wrote laſt, and granted me my deſire, in reſtoring me a little from that low, ſinking ſtate of body. Friends, who feared God, have prayed for me, and the Lord hath in ſome meaſure helped me: bleſſed be his name!——For more than three weeks I was better, but now for ſome days I am worſe. I ſink, grow faint, loſe my breath, ſpirits, &c.—Seem near my diſſolution; ſo weak, that I know not how to pray or ſpeak. Two days ſince, [*viz.* on the ſabbath] the Lord gave me ſtrength and power to ſpeak with freedom; afterwards my extreme weakneſs returned. Lord, my time is in thy hand, thou doſt uphold and ſupport me, my ſoul crieth unto Thee for help: O let me not be aſhamed or confounded, for my hope and truſt is in Thee. Suffer

me not, O Lord, to diſhonour thy name and cauſe now my heart and ſpirit faileth, but grant I may glorify Thee in my death. O, give me a bleſſed and peaceful end; and, O Lord, if it pleaſeth thee, uphold me in this place, and permit me to viſit my habitation. [*This was granted, for he thus writes on.*]

September 21*ſt.* The Lord has brought me again to this place, after three months abſence. The Lord hath upheld and ſupported me in great weakneſs and decay during my abſence;—hath preſerved me from the grave;—has heard my prayer in diſtreſs and ſent relief and help. The Lord preſerved me in this journey from dangers which ſeemed near; his hand prevented the evils we feared and brought me here in ſafety. Praiſe, thanks, and glory be unto Thee, O Lord.

December 4*th**. The Lord is pleaſed to continue me on the borders of the grave; at times ready to ſink through weakneſs and inward decay, then a little revived for a few days, and then again ſeem as if near my diſſolution. The Lord is pleaſed to preſerve me from being confined to my bed, alſo from ſore pains and burning fevers; thanks and praiſe be to his holy name. The Lord hears me when I cry unto him and ſends me help in my diſtreſs; he provides for my bodily wants and hides me under the ſhadow of his wings. The Lord is my peace, ſtrength, comforter, refuge, helper; my All in All. Laſt month, at a prayer-meeting, I was ſo low and weak

* This was the laſt Day he ever wrote in his DIARY.

weak as ſcarce able to ſpeak: on a ſudden I was revived in the time of prayer and enabled to exerciſe with comfort. ——— Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

HAVING brought our Extract, from the Author's own writing, to that period when thro' weakneſs he was rendered incapable of continuing it any longer, the ſerious reader may perhaps find it agreeable to have ſome ſhort ſtrictures relative to the cloſe of his earthly pilgrimage.

He continued in a very languiſhing ſtate for ſome months; at times exceeding low as if ſinking ſpeedily to the grave; then a little revived again: thus he remained for many weeks, during which time, at his requeſt, ſeveral ſerious People uſed to meet (when he could bear to hear them ſpeak) in order to ſpend an hour or two in prayer;—often was he revived on theſe occaſions, and would intimate, that he found himſelf better in body and mind: the little ſtrength he had he would then exert to repreſent unto them the importance of eternal things—the awfulneſs of death—and the great need and neceſſity for chriſtians to be diligent and fervent in prayer. The peculiar ſolemnity with which he ſpoke of theſe things, argued his ſoul to be deeply affected with them; and commonly did not fail to make impreſſions upon the minds of thoſe who

were

were preſent.——He was always wont to be deeply grieved at the deluſions of thoſe Profeſſors, who, with all their pretended light and knowledge, were never truly ſanctified, but could allow themſelves in criminal indulgences, ſuch as tended to waſte their time in idleneſs and ſloth; gratify their paſſions in pride, luxury, and worldly conformity:—that could live without a diligent attendance upon the means of grace; and particularly could be very remiſs in family-duties and cloſet-devotions: the vain confidence of ſuch people he would often expoſe with the greateſt concern! Particularly as he was now more than ever made ſenſible of the indiſpenſible neceſſity of an entire renovation of the whole man, to bring the ſoul to a ſupreme love of, and delight in God, as a *meetneſs* for heaven; if thoſe were not the effects of their religious principles, he thought it no matter what people pretended to believe, or how highly ſoever in words they attempted to exalt the atonement, righteouſneſs and death of Chriſt—it was but profaning his ſacred name, and making him the miniſter of ſin to expreſs their confidence in him, and cry, Lord! Lord! while they did not the things which he commanded. Thus, whilſt he had life or ſtrength, he would uſe the one and exhauſt the other, in bearing teſtimony againſt all antinomian deluſions, and contending for the abſolute neceſſity of holineſs in all who believe. —His many years of affliction had reduced him

almoſt

almoſt to a ſkeleton, but now he waſted more and more, till at length (but a few weeks before his deceaſe) he was become (I had almoſt ſaid) "the ſhadow of a ſhade."—The pains he endured were excruciating and ſevere, nor was his ſoul favoured with much light and conſolation;—however, (through the tender mercy of his God) he was borne up with a firm and ſteady hope; Jeſus Chriſt appeared "a ſure foundation," even when he had not the *ſenſible* experience of his *preciouſneſs*. He caſt anchor on Him and found a ſolid baſis; hence the waves and billows of affliction moved him not. In this frame of mind was he brought to the very gates of the grave! when, as a bright, a glorious ſcene was juſt about to open to his aſtoniſhed view, a ray of heavenly light deſcended on his mind, and all the powers of his ſoul felt the celeſtial fire! He then, as if he had received new vigour, rather than increaſing weakneſs in his diſeaſe, exerted himſelf with chearfulneſs and called upon a chriſtian friend to join with him

"To help to chant Immanuel's Praiſe!"

He then ſpoke of Chriſt with peculiar earneſtneſs, and expreſſed his confidence of an intereſt in him; after which he again joined in ſinging his praiſe, and at the cloſe, ſaid 'twas the *laſt time* he ſhould ſing on *earth:* then endeavouring, as it were, to ſettle himſelf to reſt, in the ſpace

of

of about two hours he gave up the ghoſt, *May 5th*, 1774, Aged ſixty Years.—"MARK THE PERFECT MAN, AND BEHOLD THE UPRIGHT, FOR THE END OF THAT MAN IS PEACE."

THE END.

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